

**ST. BERNARD COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 5, 2005**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, May 5, 2005 in Council Chambers.

President of Council, Mr. Curtis Walden – The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call showed that all members were present: Mrs. Brickweg, Mr. Schildmeyer, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Burkhardt, Mr. Stegman, Mrs. Kalb, and Mr. Zix.

Mr. Walden – Before we begin with the regular order of business tonight, we have a special guest, Mr. Ron Miller, of the Hamilton County Planning Partnership, who is going to speak to Council.

Mr. Ron Miller – Good evening, I'm very happy to be able to be here this evening. I have a couple of things, one is to let you know a little bit about the Planning Partnership, which is an alliance of the 49 planning commissions and governing bodies in Hamilton County. I have an Annual Report here which I'll distribute, in fact, before I begin speaking, I'd like to distribute four or five items.

The first item I will bring to your attention is this brochure, "Collaborating to Make a Difference", it explains what the Planning Partnership is about, the fact that there is a Resolution of Cooperation that about thirty of our municipalities and township have signed, so far, and we invite the Council and the Planning Commission in St. Bernard to do the same. The mission is on here which is basically to bring together the public, private and civic sector organizations in the County that are engaged in planning for this County to work together on mutual goals. There is a set of benefits that are described inside as well as a ten point vision that has been developed by the current members. If you have interest in that, let me know and I would be glad to get the proper forms to fill out, the Resolution of Cooperation and we will go forward from there.

One of the papers that are in front of you is a meeting management brochure, it simply announces one of the many training sessions that happen to be coming up that is sponsored by the Planning Partnership, it is on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Drake Conference Center. It will focus on not only meeting management but development of boards, whether that's a planning commission board, or zoning commission, or a Council or whatever and also volunteer management, which a lot of municipalities and townships get into to.

The next paper that I will bring to your attention is the update newsletter which is a quarterly publication from the Planning Partnership which describes what has been going on and what we're planning to do in the next months. This particular issue focuses on something that is of high interest, I'm sure, to St. Bernard because it focuses on the First Suburbs Consortium and what their priorities are.

There is also in the middle of this report a description of the green space initiative which is an outgrowth of the Planning Partnership. It explains how we're trying to connect greens paces and repairing the corridor going North, South and also green belts going East and West across the County.

On the back of each one of these quarterly reports is a set of meetings that anyone is invited to. They are all open public meetings, whether you're official members or not. At the Planning Partnership we welcome all public officials, especially those who happen to be working in Hamilton County to improve our Communities.

The last thing I will bring to your attention is a paper that on one side says, Project Committees, and on the other side says, First Suburbs Research Alliance. This begins to describe the various committees that the First Suburbs Consortium, which is an outgrowth, a subcommittee of sorts, of the Planning Partnership and it explains on that page that we have form an intergovernmental cooperation committee as well as a neighborhood revitalization committee, transportation and infrastructure legislation and financial committee. We certainly encourage your participation and your Planning Commission members participation on these Committees and I know Peggy Brickweg is a member of First Suburbs and she participates there and we really appreciate that representation from St. Bernard. If any of the other Council members or Planning Commission members would like to get involved in this, we certainly need a lot more participation on all of these committees as well as on the Executive Committee and Ad Hoc Committees that are formed periodically.

On the other side of this is the First Suburbs Research Alliance description. This is something that has been of great interest to older suburbs, first suburbs in Hamilton County and it describes the alliance that we have set up with the University of Cincinnati to begin researching issues and opportunities that are common to most first suburbs. A lot of this has to do with remarketing these older communities so that the image and the real estate potential becomes much greater. Many of you have traveled around the country and you've seen what many people call, new urbanest communities and neotraditional towns and in fact there is one being built not to far from here, up in West Chester, which is basically an attempt to duplicate the kinds of town that St. Bernard already is. It is a town that has walkable streets and a grid pattern to its streets, it has schools within walking distance, it has a business district within walking distance, in fact it has a business district which most communities outside of Hamilton County don't have. But here in Hamilton County we have at least twenty older suburbs that are fantastic models, in fact, one of them Mariemont is probably the most well renowned community in the world in terms of being a new urbanest, or first suburb kind of community, it's a model in every text book. First suburbs such as St. Bernard are simply waiting for that reawakening in the real estate market. It's something that the First Suburbs Consortium is working to do.

If you look at the bottom of the sheet you see what the Consortium is really about. It advocates for main things. One is public policies that don't create disposable communities as we like to talk about because our State laws many times are created only to advocate for new communities and new roads and new sewers and new schools. We want to change those State laws so that it's a level playing field and we want laws that are a "Fix it First" kind of policy rather than build new, build new, build new. They also advocate balance investment in new and existing infrastructure. This is

something that goes hand and hand with not creating disposable communities. They advocate maintenance and enhancement of tax base. They also advocate for the creation of redevelopment opportunities, not only locally, within the County, but also through the State Legislature. Again, we encourage your participation in that station which happens to be a part of the Planning Partnership.

Now I will move to the Power Point Presentation which is in paper form. This is basically a presentation that's about our comprehensive plan. We have recently completed, the Planning Partnership has completed, the 2030 Plan and implementation framework for Hamilton County. The name of this plan is Community Compass, Compass is an acronym which is shown at the bottom of the page. It stands for Comprehensive Master Plan And Strategies for Hamilton County. It is very important that it says and strategies because most of these plans are only plans and because they are so complicated and complexity sort of gets the best of all of us, and as a result these plans often sit on a shelf. We were mandated by our stakeholders and our county commissioners and our three hundred and fifty some elected officials in Hamilton County to make sure that if we create a plan for this County that it's not going to be sitting on a shelf. It has to be implemented, this has a framework for implementation.

If you move to page two, you will see that a vision has been created, a set of goals and objectives for the County, as well as initiatives and strategies that pertain to twelve communities' systems. Those communities' systems cover every aspect of life, basically in Hamilton County. The community systems are things such as, transportation, environment, housing, schools and so forth. Those visions, goals, objectives, initiatives and strategies have been reviewed and approved and modified dozens of times, but in the past three years those items have been approved not only by the steering team for Community Compass but also by the Planning Partnership, also by the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission and also by the County Commissioners. We're now beginning implementation. Community Compass, when we started it, had a variety of key requirements. There is ten that are listed here. First, we had to create this plan so that we engaged lots of government collaboration. Secondly, it had to be created recognizing that we exist in a home rule environment and that home rule is something we need to work with. Every jurisdiction has its own prerogative to take parts of this plan and implement it as they see fit for their own Community.

Clarity in accountability, we had to make sure in this plan, who was accountable for implementing which parts of it. It has to be implemented by many partnerships, not just governments, but also private sector organizations and also civic sector organizations and we have quite a few of those partnerships already started and implementation beginning. It has to be used by a lot of decision makers, otherwise, it's not worth doing. It has to be inclusive of the entire community and we certainly made a lot of effort toward that. It has to be user friendly, lots of these plans happen to be hundreds of pages, ours is no different, quite frankly, however we divided into twelve sections. If you only want to look at environment, you can take out twenty to thirty pages on environment. If you only want to look at transportation, there is a twenty to thirty page booklet on transportation. The actual State of the County report is a big document, but it's in twelve books. It's also on a CD, so I can get you as many CDs as you want, in fact, the CD includes this plus forty other documents from the plan and also the 2030 plan itself. It's also on our web site at: [www.communitycompass.org](http://www.communitycompass.org). and if

you click on products, you'll see all of the documents there and they are downloadable.

The Plan also had to be action oriented and focus on measurement of progress and within the 2030 Plan we have identified a handful of important community indicators, performance measurements that have to be measured annually or thereabouts. For every one of the twelve community systems, so we will be measuring progress.

Finally, this Plan had to focus on issues that cross boundaries. That is to say, everyone of our 49 jurisdictions know what they are doing in terms of their own communities and has, for the most part, the capacity to do that work. The importance of this Plan and the focus of this comprehensive plan for the County is to focus on those issues that cross political boundaries, that cross jurisdiction boundaries. We're looking at transportation issues, environment issues, any issue that crosses boundaries, any issue that cannot be solved very easily by a local jurisdiction by itself. The whole idea of community revitalization is very important in this Plan because older communities, first suburbs by themselves, independently find it very difficult to do that. Instead, we're developing strategies to work together so that can happen throughout the County.

The bottom part of page 3 describes the parts of this Plan and Community Compass includes actually seven parts. The first part I already talked about, the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements and this was very important because our stake holders said to us, the Mayors and Managers and Council members within the County, and the County Commissioners said they didn't want us pursuing this Plan unless there was local participation. Three years ago we went around to all of the Communities and talked about this and we did obtain cooperation agreements from 30 Communities and many others participate, quite frankly, but they haven't exactly signed Cooperation Agreements, that's OK, whatever works for those Communities is OK. That's the foundation of this whole planning effort and it's the sustainable part of this. If we didn't have the Planning Partnership and the Cooperation Agreements with these jurisdictions, we would not be able to sustain the implementation of this Plan. It probably wouldn't be worth the paper it's printed on.

The second part of Compass is a number of special reports and foundation research, for instance, we looked at population in the County and there is a special report on population and the fact that we've lost over 130,000 people in this County since 1970. We've lost significant jobs in the last three years since the recession. There has to be strategies that deal with those issues Countywide.

Another special report that we looked at that we produced has to do with special influences, external influences that occur within the United States that we can't do much about but we have to recognize in the Plan. For instance, one of the external influences that we studied is the aging of the Baby Boomers. Many of us are here in this room. It's not anything we can do about, but we better plan for it because it changes our housing market and it changes the situation around schools and it changes the demographics in our Communities and we need to know what's going to happen in terms of population in the next 10, 20, 30 years.

The third part of Community Compass is the vision. The vision is divided into twelve sections, there is a separate vision for every one of the Community systems, whether it's transportation, environment, housing, school and so forth.

The fourth part, in the state of the County report, is basically research on trends and existing conditions for each one of the twelve Community systems.

The fifth part of the plan is the 2030 plan itself and its implementation framework which I'll talk more about in a moment.

The sixth part is implementation and there is an implementation framework that is focused on four primary campaigns, right now, and we'll talk about that in a moment.

Finally, the Plan includes an evaluation component which will allow us annually to look at the performance measures and see whether or not we're making a difference in this community. If the strategies that we've selected collaboratively are not making a difference, then we have to change them. That's the purpose of the evaluation part.

If you go to page four, at the top it mentions that this effort has been well recognized across the United States. We've received three State awards and seventeen national awards for this effort and even an international award. It has received the highest awards from the American Planning Assoc. and from the International City, County Managers Assoc. and from the National Assoc. of Counties.

The bottom part of that page shows the diagram that explains what the Planning Partnership is about basically. It shows at the top that it includes Municipal and Township governments, Board of County Commissioners and Civic and Private Sector Organizations. Community Compass, the long range plan, is a part of this and Community Compass also includes the three sectors of our society. It includes representatives from Civic, Public and Private Sectors, in fact, the steering committee included thirty representatives from each of those sectors.

On page five, there is an explanation of some of the special reports that we've produced, including a Community values survey. The first thing we did within this document was a survey of the entire Community we sent to 4500 households a survey to determine what their interests and values and needs were. From that we determined, for instance, the reasons why people are leaving Hamilton County. Not only did we identify the real reason, we also identified perceived reasons. The perceived reasons, when we asked people why they thought people were leaving Hamilton County. The answers primarily were related to schools and public safety. However, when we actually asked the people who were moving, the real reason was not schools at all, but rather the lack of appropriate housing. The lack of new housing, the lack of housing having the amenities that are needed today, such as, more than one bathroom, more than one garage space, air-conditioning, more than one bedroom, those kinds of things. That's an important finding for First Suburbs because First Suburbs have a lot of those kinds of houses that aren't real marketable in today's real estate market. The First Suburbs Consortium not only locally but also statewide is researching that matter and, in fact, in the Cleveland First Suburbs Consortium, they have identified a dozen or so alternative for revitalization of their communities by expanding those small unites and combining them even and they have done some demonstration projects in Cleveland for remarketing their First Suburbs with new types of housing.

We've done an inventory of research and found that there are over 130 plans already existing in Hamilton County. We tried to look at all those so that we didn't reinvent anything. We did a migration report to find out where people are coming from and where they are going. We found out that most of the

people moving from Hamilton County are going North to Butler and Warren County and others to Clermont. Lots to Atlanta, lots to Phoenix. Some are coming from the Northeast and Minnesota and Wisconsin and the New England. Marketing wise, for Hamilton County, that tells us a little bit about where we have to improve marketing efforts. We've identified comparative and competitive advantages for Hamilton County and we've identified business and industry clusters which speaks to what kinds of industries we ought to be promoting in this County because businesses and industries feed off of each other. If you're focusing on biotechnology there's a dozen or so different kind of industries that you want to promote. If you're focusing on manufacturing, there is a different set. We've prioritized those and are working with the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce to expand this effort into the region so that we've become more competitive regionally as well as in the County.

I've already talked about the external influences report and the population report.

Part three is the vision, the vision includes four primary goal areas in addition to the Community System visions. The four goals are: assure economic prosperity, build collaborative decision making, embrace diversity and equity and balance development and the environment. For each one of these goals we now have started an implementation campaign with a number of strategies and committees that are working on that. The vision also includes a number of initiatives and strategies that are a part of the implementation campaign.

Page six, you see a couple of pictures. This describes the low tech and the high tech methodology that we used in producing this Plan. The upper picture is the low tech form, we had hundreds of meetings across the County, as we went through a consensus process on this, and by the way the Planning Partnership decided on day one that they were not going to accept a plan that had 51% approval. They said that everything that we decided in the plan had to be by total consensus, that is 100% agreement by all of the representatives and the Planning Partnership. It took a long time. The way we went through this in small group meetings is by this colored card system and you might find that interesting because we gave everybody three colored cards, a green card, a yellow, and a red card. If during any discussion, people agreed with what you were saying they raised a green card and if they opposed what you were saying or they opposed a motion, they raised the red card. If they weren't so sure but they were willing to go along with the majority they raised a yellow card. Anytime in the discussion people could do that and a lot of times we were talking and talking and people were raise there cards and say, OK we're done, it's all green. Other times there would be a bunch of red cards and people would say, stop talking, this isn't going anywhere. It really did expedite the process. That was the small group meetings. The larger group meeting was in January, 2002. It was our County wide town meeting at Music Hall. We had 1300 people come into the room and spend 8 hours with us, voting on these various alternatives and discussing them. Each of the 1300 participants had a hand held computer for voting. We had 100 computers in the room for making comments and at the end of that meeting we had consensus on all of the vision elements and the enabled us to move forward a lot quicker that going through a lot more meetings.

The vision document is shown on page 7. It is only a four page document, I didn't bring copies of that tonight, but I would be glad to bring them to you.

It's also on the web site, of course. The four parts of the vision, the goals, are shown at the bottom of page 7, those are integrated, interrelated goals, almost inseparable when you're working on economic prosperity, you're also working on balancing development and the environment. When you're working on diversity and equity, you're also working on economic prosperity. It's all interrelated but for the purpose of preparing campaigns, we had to try to separate a lot of those things.

On page 8 is the reports that are contained within the State of the County report. It shows all twelve of them there. We have separated documents, 20 or 30 page documents that identify the current conditions and the most important indicators for all of these, civic and community services, culture and recreation, environment, housing, all the twelve that are listed on there. Page nine is a description of the contents that you'll find in the State of the County report. First, it identifies the vision for each one of the twelve systems and then it identifies the trends and conditions for that system and then it identifies the strengths and opportunities for Hamilton County and the challenges for Hamilton County. Then it describes the importance of findings and the key indicators, kind of like a community dashboard, so that you can see what kinds of things are important just like the dashboard on your car and it gives you the kinds of things that are going in the wrong direction and the things that are going in the right direction.

In terms of measurement of progress, we have community results and we have program results. Within the State of the County report we make a big difference between the two.

The Community results are those high level things like whether or not the environment is healthy, whether or not schools are performing well, whether or not transportation is congested. The program results have to do with all of the initiative that we are starting and we're measuring those because those are the means for accomplishing the Community results. We're measuring the performance, how much we're actually accomplishing, whether or not we're making progress with different committees and task forces.

On page 10, from the State of the County report includes several hundred charts and maps such as this, the only two that are displayed here have to do with population. As I mentioned earlier, Hamilton County's population has been declining since 1970 and we've lost over 130,000 people and all of the population projections that you will ever see show Hamilton County declining forever. We thought, that can't be, it has to change sometime. We invested quite a bit of money in a very high tech computer model that instead of using the two or three variables that most people use for projecting population, this model includes 6,000 variables and by looking at all of these variables, we actually identified that around the year 2010 Hamilton County's population is going to begin to increase. The reasons for that increase have to do with factors such as, our competitiveness relative to other counties in the nation, relative to things like our position in the country, our access to commodities, our access to labor, our labor rates, those kinds of things are some of the 6,000 variables that were analyzed in this model that determined that Hamilton County is becoming more competitive relative to the rest of the nation and we will begin increasing population after 2010.

Part 5 of Community Compass is shown on page 11 and it's the 2030 plan. The contents, if you care to look at them on the web site or in a paper document you'll see it includes the vision, the initiatives, the key indicators, policies, concept plans for land use and transportation and green space and

eventually there will be more concept plans and a number of implementation campaigns and priorities.

Page 12 explains that this 2030 plan, in identifying the 2030 plan, sometimes it's useful to explain what it's not before you talk about what it is, it is not a few things. It is not a final plan, it is made as a plan that will constantly be changing as more people get involved and as we have better understanding of our Community and our 49 jurisdictions. It's not a specific plan, it doesn't get into plans like St. Bernard's plan might where you begin to talk about street intersections and traffic congestions at points and stop signs and traffic signals and those kinds of things, we don't get to that level. It's a much higher level discussion than those specific plans. The plan is not a regulation, it's advisory. It's not a mandate, Communities can take whatever part of it they like. Then what is it? It is a public discussion draft and if you look at the front cover it says Version 1. There will be many versions of this, that will happen after we have more public discussion about the first version. It is an advisory recommendation for use by local governments such as St. Bernard. It is also an advisory recommendation for civic sector and private sector organizations such as United Way and League of Women Voters and Citizens for Civic Renewal and those sorts of organizations. It is a response to the Communities to the Communities' vision. The vision was developed with several thousand people participating over three years. It is a framework for working together, it's like a Community workbook and it describes the ways in which our 49 Communities can work together. It is also a consolidation of all of the local plans. We looked at 49 Communities, we tried to integrate all of the elements of those plans. It is an emerging plan, it's not done today, in fact, it'll continue to be evolving through 2030. It's a conceptual plan, as I explained before, it's not specific and it's a comprehensive plan. More comprehensive than probably any you'll find across the country because it includes these twelve Community systems. Most plans don't go to that breadth of research.

At the bottom of 13 you see the land use concept plan which is easier to see on your computer screen probably or on a large paper copy but it begins to integrate all of the Community plans that have been developed throughout Hamilton County and for instance the yellow is indicative of residential. The large dots are large residential lots and the small are smaller residential lots. The red indicates retail recommendations and the purple represents recommendations from land use plans for industrial development.

Page 14 is the transportation concept plan. The 2030 plan for the region includes about 7 billion dollars of improvements and Hamilton County about 2 billion of that 7 billion is being invested and as you can see an awful lot of that is being invested on interstate 75 and there is also quite a bit being recommended for the Eastern corridor.

The bottom diagram is the green space concept plan which indicates that we're trying to connect green spaces and trails and parks systems throughout the County including repairing corridors on our rivers that go North, South primarily and the dotted line is a green belt that is proposed connecting many Communities and also connecting the repairing corridors in the Millcreek Valley and the Great Miami River and the Little Miami River. Implementation is shown on page 15. We like to refer to our implementation model as a barn raising model because it's the opposite of what governments have used in the past which is often described as a vending machine model, sometimes people say government create safety nets and they become hammocks and we're not doing that we're not

providing the answers and the solutions, we're only providing the framework and we're engaging people and Communities to help themselves to improve the County as a whole. We are working towards this culture of accountability rather than a culture of entitlement and in fact none of our governments have enough money for us to be cultures of entitlement anymore so we have to improve accountability on the part of citizens and organizations, not only in the public sector but also private sector and civic sector. In implementing this plan, the partnership has identified four primary criteria for setting priorities and they are at the bottom of page 15. The first is that we look for initiatives in projects that have financial benefits for the most local jurisdictions. Secondly, we look for tangible benefits, things that will make things cheaper, faster or better for most local jurisdictions. Third, we look at improved competitive advantage for the entire County. Fourth, we look for some benefit that can be achieved within a short period of time, like one year. Because this is a 20 or 30 year plan, people get frustrated sometimes by the long term nature of it so our implementation tasks attempt to focus the one year variety of things. Page 16 describes the four implementation campaigns corresponding to the four goals within Community Compass and it also identifies some of the implementation groups which have already been started including the Planning Partnership itself which has a number of subcommittees that are implementing things in all four of these goal areas. The Hamilton County Caucus has been formed to focus on transportation and it includes some forty some representatives from Hamilton County that serve on committees at the OKI Regional Council of Governments. We're working with that group to improve Hamilton County's ability to influence policy at the Regional Council of Governments.

Hamilton County LAND was formed just last week. LAND is an acronym that stands for Local Alliance for Nature and Development. This organization is focusing on implementation of the County wide green print, the green ways and green belts that are going to be interconnected throughout the County. The First Suburbs Consortium is a group of now 18 or 20 Mayors and Managers and some Council Members who meet monthly now to work on revitalization issues and state wide legislative policy issues related to aging suburbs within Hamilton County.

The implementation phase of Compass is described in the seven points at the bottom of 16. Basically what we do with all of the implementation components is, we start with what's desired, we first identify what the desired results are. We've gone through quite a few of these so far. It works really well. The second thing we do very early in the process is identify what we're going to measure. The key indicators, if we can't identify how we're going to measure the end result then we don't go there because we have to be able to measure what we're doing. We then go to baseline trends after we know what we want to measure, we begin to identify what the existing trend is. If we're looking at transportation and congestion is increasing and we want it to decrease, then we research the reasons why the curve is going up. Then we look at methodologies and strategies for bringing the curve down. That's the story behind the baseline. When we figure out what we want to do, we meet with lots of different organizations and identify who and the best partners might be, to make this work. What governments need to be a part of this particular initiative, what civic sector and private sector organizations, and what private sector corporations perhaps need to be a part of this initiative. Then we work with that group of

partners to identify what will really work and what they want to do with the issue or the opportunity that has been identified.

Page 17 is the action plan that we'll be following and these started and once we have a strategic plan we move to the action plan phase and we identify the commitments and the tasks, responsibilities, schedules, budget all that kind of stuff. Basically who, what, when, where, why for getting the thing off the ground.

On page 18 is the sort of a graphic description of what I've just talked about, we measure whatever we're trying to do, we set goals, we try to change the curves and if the curves aren't changing we go back and change the strategy. Finally, we evaluate the aspects of our initiatives and basically what we want to do is focus on that lower right hand corner at the bottom of page 18. We really want to figure out if anybody is better off as a result of the initiatives that we are doing. The most important measure is not how much did we do but rather what quality of change did we actually produce by this amount of work.

On page 19 it describes the same thing, the most important is that lower quadrant, identifying if anybody is better off and we can measure all day long whether or not we've done a lot or how well we did it but the lower kinds of measurements are much more important.

That's a summary of Community Compass and, again on page 20 you see the seven parts that this includes. I will just mention a couple of other things because there are some attached handouts that you have. The first is the transmittal letter that explains a little more about what this whole report is about and the second page of that lists the 20 or 30 reports that you can have access to and we can provide copies to you for any of these that you might like. The next page is a listing of 20 or 25 awards, we like to blow our horn once in a while because not only staff and commission but there has been a couple thousand participants in this process and these awards reflect the incredible amount of energy that citizens have invested and public officials have invested in this particular planning process. Finally there's about 10 pages of the executive summary from the Community Compass Plan that you might want to read instead of looking at the hundreds of pages that are actually available on the total plan. With that I will ask if there are any questions or comments on the matter and again thank you for allowing me to be here this evening.

Mr. Schildmeyer – I have a few questions and comments actually. Back in '97, '98 we had a comprehensive plan program that Catalina worked with us, Harry Blanton worked with us. A lot of these, it sounds like were close to what we went through back then. From that time, up until now, the Community has changed, I think, dramatically. We did accomplish a lot in discovery of what we needed back in those discussions. We had thirty people on the panel at that time. We had people representing the City, we had people representing the business and industry on those panels. Is that similar to what this whole plan would be doing?

Mr. Miller – It's similar in terms of general process and implementation, but it's very different in terms of focus because as I mentioned briefly before, the St. Bernard plan and all local plan focus on what's within the scope of control within the Community. This County wide Compass Plan is basically focusing on things that are almost outside of local Community's scope of control.

Mr. Schildmeyer – I understand that. The plan at that time was mainlining and focusing on the needs of St. Bernard and they were very good. Harry was great at it, he did a lot of work on traffic, he did a lot of work on streets, a lot of work on infrastructure, on sewers, Catalina put all the other programs together for us, it was great, it worked out great, we worked off of that for five years. We got to a point, just like you mentioned, where all of a sudden something popped up and became very important, that we had to turn our attention to and get away from this program. Does that happen in the Communities that develop these programs?

Mr. Miller – All the time.

Mr. Schildmeyer – Our process works out quite well right now. I think it's great that Peg is going to take this over and run with it. I think it will work out real well for this City, but we still have a lot of work that we are doing that has been developed. We still have a sewer project, sewer programs that have to be finished up. We still have the industrial side of our City is just getting into the development stage, new processes down at the Nu-Maid Margarine Plant properties. The Vine St. program which I know Peg is very interested in, when we were taking that on, was when the turn hit and we had to go in another direction, that's where that stopped so I'm really happy to see this come together. Are there financial obligations involved with this program.

Mr. Miller – Everything has some cost to it and the cost for the various initiatives have not been identified yet, but for instance, as we get into the green print implementation, that's something that has to be coordinated county wide, but it's going to involve State grants and Federal grants and some local match in those Communities that are part of the green print, the same thing is true of every other project. It's going to involve multiple funding sources and it will evolve over time, sometimes it can't be possible because Communities don't have the money and we'll have to work around it.

Mr. Schildmeyer – Grants are available to help within this project?

Mr. Miller – We will be applying for many different kinds of Grants, yes.

Mr. Schildmeyer – Thank you, I appreciate your presentation.

Mrs. Kalb – I participated in a very similar work shop to the green belt section of this when I was the OKI representative about 4 years ago and some of the things that you were talking about were, it seemed like, some of the things we did with the land use concept. I've been trying all night to try to figure out the name of the, something about how we grow.

Mr. Miller – That was the Regional Policy Plan for OKI.

Mrs. Kalb – Yes. Has that been incorporated into this, is it coordinating with this, because I'm sitting here looking at this going, now is OKI going to be running in their own direction and you're going to be running in your direction and the two aren't going to meet at some point.

Mr. Miller – I'm glad you brought that up because I failed to talk about that. OKI has created, they just finished, their Regional Policy Plan which covers about six Community systems rather than the twelve and we are the first County in the region which has become consistent with the OKI original policy plan and we have adopted policies within this 2030 plan for Hamilton County that is totally aligned with the regional plan at OKI. We have modified the OKI policies though to be consistent with Hamilton County as well, so there are some things that the region is doing that are not applicable entirely to Hamilton County and there are some things that Hamilton County is interested in that the region did not mention. They are not identical, but they are in alignment with each other.  
That has been accomplished, thanks for asking that.

Mr. Wilson – Thank you for coming tonight, appreciate all your information. I just had a question, your master plan, does it include anything as far as the Library, is that part of the focus?

Mr. Miller – It's interesting that the last Master Plan that Hamilton County prepared was 40 some years ago and I might expect we might prepare these every forty years because it's such a big project. Forty years ago the Master Plan had about six components in it and one of them was a Master Plan for Public Libraries. That Library Plan was by and large completely implemented as was the Park District Plan forty years ago. The current plan does not include a Library Plan and the reason for that is because the Library, just before we started this effort, the Hamilton County and Cincinnati Public Library system started their own strategic plan, I guess it is for expansion of the Library system. Eventually, I need to follow up on that, and I'm glad you asked the question because it jogged my mind now. We need to follow up on that and eventually those kinds of plans will be incorporated into the comprehensive plan for the County. There's other plans like that as well. There's a natural resources, critical natural resources plan that is being prepared presently and will be incorporated and there's a natural hazards plan that has been prepared and will be incorporated and those kinds of things.

Mrs. Brickweg – Just in reference to the grant, the one thing I can say for the First Suburbs is, I have learned so much just being there talking to those people, a lot of them are the City Managers, not a whole lot of Council people but more of the Mayors, the City Managers and being able to ask those people, what did you do right, what did you do wrong and they share all these stories and then they're also working on getting a bunch of the First Suburbs together and maybe go for future grants and look for that way to help other communities because it's amazing the Communities close by are suffering the same way we are and have done the same things we've done and had the same results. By being there you can learn so much more and then I've learned different ways people are getting grants and what they are doing. An example, when Green Hills got theirs, I talked to him a few times so in that aspect it's helping me to learn to get possible grants that we can go get. Thank you for coming.

Mr. Miller – Thank you very much. If you would like any additional information or copies of reports, let us know, we'd be glad to provide those to you.

Mr. Walden – Thank you for being with us this evening.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Wilson to suspend with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

## **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, John Estep – Two things on the agenda tonight, first I would like to thank the three churches for the prayer vigil last Monday evening. The turnout was a strong message that people do care about our Community and they want to do what is best for our future.

The other thing was the levy. I think the two things I looked at with the levy, just the number of people that voted in that levy shows that our citizens are serious about moving forward and also that they support this Administration and Council. The results were the other part that I looked at. Almost two to one in favor of the levy. Again it shows the concern for the level of services that we need to keep to keep our City safe and maintain our property value. I'm very proud of the people who stepped forward to provide these positive results.

AUDITOR, Walt St. Clair – The April Auditor's report is prepared for tonight's meeting. The receipts report and the report showing year-to-date revenue and expenses by fund has been given to Council and certain members of the Administration.

Payroll for the month of April which included 3 paydays; \$  
528,200.60

Payroll year to date:  
2,052,928.06

Other expenditures for the month of April:  
388,508.01

Other expenditures as of April 30<sup>th</sup>:  
1,408,415.91

Total expenditures through the end of April: \$  
3,461,343.97

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Ed Geiser – I just want to congratulate the Mayor, Council and the Administration for all the work they put in passing the levy, especially the committee that worked so hard to get the levy passed. Before Council tonight is Ord. #18 & 19 involving the waste and garbage rules and also nuisance. I commend Mrs. Kalb and her committee for working hard to get these Ord. ready and I'm sure she'll have a further report on those two Ords. At the end of tonight's Council Meeting I would like to ask Council to go into Executive Session to discuss an important issue on litigation.

TREASURER, Tim Bollmer –  
Receipts for the month of April: \$ 1,158,797.87

Receipts for the year through April 30<sup>th</sup>: \$ 3,976,793.45

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Beth Luken – I would like to be placed on the agenda for the COW meeting next week to discuss staffing at the police and fire departments.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Joe Kempe – I would like to respond to Mr. Wilson's request from two weeks ago to call Cincinnati about the Mitchell Ave. street repair, from Vine St. to I-75 overpass.

I spoke to Chris Ertel of the Cincinnati engineering division and he informed me road repair and sewer work on that section of Mitchell Ave. is scheduled for August or September of this year. If there is a delay, it will be finished by the end of the year.

Effective May 30<sup>th</sup>, all hours for the fitness center will be coed.

I also want to acknowledge the retirements of five service department employees for the year 2005. Charlie Tackett has retired after 35 years of service; Richard Meiners has retired after 31 years of service; Tim Witzeman has retired after 18 years of service and Pat Condon has retired after 10 years of service. I know I speak for all the Service Department employees (both current and retired), past Administrations and the current Administration when I express our sincerest gratitude for all the dedication and hard work demonstrated over the years. Thank you all very much.

Finally, on behalf of the Service Department, I want to thank the citizens of St. Bernard who voted on Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the special election. I especially want to thank the citizens who voted for the levy and the income tax increase demonstrating their confidence in the Administration and Service Department employees to operate more efficiently and provide our residents with the best services possible.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Phil Stegman – Tonight I would like to ask the Finance Committee to meet right after the meeting with Walt St. Clair to go over some times and dates to go over the 2006 budget. We need to get those times and dates so we can give those times and dates to the dept. heads and will also give those times and dates at the next COW meeting. I'd also like to thank the taxpayers for passing the levy. It will help move St. Bernard to the next level and hopefully be looking at a five plan. Since this levy is up in five years we need to continue to look forward to the five year plan to keep the City moving.

SAFETY, Bill Burkhardt – I also would like to thank the levy committee for all their hard work in getting this levy passed. Thank the citizens for their votes. Also at the next COW I would like to have the Police and Fire Chiefs present to discuss the age limits on the testing

SERVICE, Glenn Wilson – I also would like to thank all the residents and everybody that worked to get these levies passed. Also in regards to what Joe was talking about on Mitchell Ave. there. Evidently, he got something stirred up because they already fixed the off ramp coming off of 75 onto Mitchell so, boy he worked fast on that. I have the Service Dept. report for April, 2005. We had 27 trucks and 12 dumpsters placed at residents homes, 236 special pick-ups were made, 241 ½ tons of garbage were taken to the

landfill, 21.51 tons of recycling material, 8.34 tons of cardboard, 355 lbs. of scrap aluminum, 393 lbs. of aluminum cans, 2 computers, 15,400 lbs of scrap metal, 35 lbs. of stainless steel, 3 stoves, 4 washers, 2 dryers, 1 dishwasher, 6 water heaters, 9 refrigerators, 3 air-conditioners and 30 tires. For the month of April, and I believe this was the most we've taken in this year, the City received \$11,017.23 for recycling so I'd like to thank everybody for the extra effort they're making in recycling and everything and the Service Dept. for working extra hard and note at the bottom here the City received \$13,172.49 in 2004, that's for the recycling residential recycling incentive program from Hamilton County.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mike Schildmeyer – I too would like to thank the levy committee and all the residents who did vote setting the pace for positive action in the City. I also encourage passing Ord. 18 and 19 tonight. I think it's important that these type of rulings get out there and be enforced and that the residents know exactly what need to be done for containers and refuse pick up. Also I'd like to thank Ron Miller, again, for his presentation tonight. It's a lot to comprehend in his discussion just tonight and I hope we do get some disc and all of the copies that he did recommend that we look over. It sounds like a good undertaking for the City at this time.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Barb Kalb – I too would like to thank Mr. Chris Sauer and Michelle Stegman and the rest of the levy committee for all their hard work and creative ideas in getting this levy passed. I would like to thank the residents for supporting the City. The Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee recommends passages of Ords. 18 and 19 this evening. This evening the committee met to finalize our revisions of the animal control chapter of the codified Ord. I'd like to present our recommendations at the next COW meeting. The Committee will begin meetings to define residency at the request of Council last week. We haven't been able to set a date and find a time to meet yet, but as soon as I get one arranged I will announce it.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Peggy Brickweg – I too would like to thank all the citizens for supporting the levy. As Chairperson of the Business and Industry Committee I would also like to thank Mr. Ron Miller for his presentation on Hamilton County's 2030 Plan. I am very lucky to be included in a few of Mr. Miller's groups and I have been learning a lot from him and the other members from Hamilton County Municipalities. I met with one of these groups, the First Suburbs, on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The main discussion of the meeting focused on the project committee reports. The First Suburbs decided to form committees to focus on subjects that many communities are facing. Some of these Committees are working on neighborhood revitalization, intergovernmental cooperation, financial and legislative issues and transportation and infrastructure. We also were given an overview of the center for local government and the Hamilton County Development Co. I'd also like to report that I met with Mr. Wiedmann yesterday, we had a very good meeting, I learned a lot about the grant. He has given me copies of the paperwork that we will need to put in for the Ord. for the next grant and I'm going to have Carol make copies and put it in everybody's box. We went over a lot of ideas, I had sent out an email to my list and got some great ideas back from the citizens. One of the ideas I really liked and Mr. Weidmann and a lot of the people on my list also had the same

idea was possibly, if we could find the funding to do underground, continue the underground wiring going up Vine St. That was one of the possibilities, we were also looking, we discussed the signs and the planters and I'm going to continue working on that and then I did spend a lot of time today looking on the internet trying to find future grant money that we might be able to add to this to help with the underground wiring, but those are just a few of the possibilities and I encourage everybody to keep giving possibilities to me and even if they don't have to do with Vine St. at least we can have a list of what the citizens would like to see happen in the future.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Greg Zix – I too would like to thank the citizens of St. Bernard for the support they showed the levy. I would like to recommend the passage of Ord. 18 and 19 also. In the month of April 2005 we had 1381 riders on the Dial-a-Ride system. I would like to discuss at the COW the availability of transportation funds from the OKI Regional Council Government. Fundings available for construction only, and this is a reimbursement program. Projects are required a minimum local match of 20%. The program provides funds for projects which improve the quality of the Community and enhance the travel experience of people traveling in all modes. All projects must have linkage to surface transportation. I will put a summary of this program in all Council and Administration mail boxes so that we can review it before the next meeting.

Mr. Burkhardt – The COW report has been submitted to the Clerk

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

April 28, 2005

1. Six members were present, and approved the minutes of the April 21<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting, 6-0. Mr. Wilson was absent.
2. After a short discussion, Council will leave the COW off of Cable.
3. Mayor, John Estep
  - A. John informed Council that the Administration will look into their options for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July if we have no fireworks.
4. Auditor, Walter St. Clair
  - A. Walt told Council that the Independent Auditors will start Monday and will take a couple weeks to complete the audit of the City's books.
5. Law Director, Edward Geiser
  - A. Ed will get Council examples of the way residency is defined by other cities.
6. Safety Director, Beth Luken, no report.
7. Service Director, Joe Kempe
  - A. After no one in the audience had any comments, Joe will look into making the fitness center co-ed at all times.
  - B. Reported that Mitchell Ave. from Vine St. to I-75 will be worked this fall.
8. Business & Industry, Peggy Brickweg
  - A. After some discussion the Community Block Grant Money will be discussed further in the Business & Industry Committee.
9. Public Improvements, Mike Schildmeyer
10. Service, Glenn Wilson, Absent..

11. Safety, Bill Burkhardt, no report.
12. Finance, Phil Stegman, no report.
13. Laws, Contracts, & Claims, Barb Kalb
  - A. Council voted 5-0 to put the revised garbage Ord. on the table for Thursday.
  - B. The Committee will meet May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the dog and cat Ord.
14. Highways & Transportation, Greg Zix
  - A. Greg brought Council up to date on the monthly budget report.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Burkhardt  
President of Council, Pro-Tem

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Dear Mayor Estep and Council Members,

This letter is a thank you note to the Service Dept. men. About 2 or 3 weeks ago a truck and a shredder started to clear all the heavy brush and bushes and that had over grown a fence in the AR Welding parking lot on West Ross Ave. Our street is a forgotten street. We live behind a shopping mall and Post Office. Delivery men seem to never find it, that do not live or work in this area. I think it took all morning and afternoon, but it looks great now, and the bushes and some small trees are budding out and it looks a lot neater now.

We have a great City because of our Police, Fire and Service Dept. and Mayor and Council persons from the past and the future. Now that the levy has passed, let us begin to heal and be kinder to all of us together.

Thank you,  
Marilyn Middendorf and son Mark.  
203 W. Ross Ave.

Mr. Walden – Council, what is your pleasure on the communication.

Mr. Stegman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kalb, to receive and file the communication and also send a copy off to the Service Dept. Motion passed 7-0.

## **ORDINANCES**

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Wilson to read this evenings Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Kalb – I did notice an amendment that I need to make on this Ordinance. If you will look at Section 2 at the bottom of the first page, when it talks about section 923.04, setting out waste for collection. The individual paragraphs are lettered C,D,E and F. That's one problem, Carol can't figure out how to stop it either because I couldn't get my computer to just automatically when I tried, the 923.04 has section A and B and the 923 underneath it, the section should read A,B,C and D and it shouldn't have been a continuance on of the alphabet at that stage of the game so if we

amend that section of the Ordinance before it gets its first reading, I'd appreciate it. I make a motion to do that.

Mr. Stegman – I'll second it.

Motion by Mrs. Kalb, seconded by Mr. Stegman to amend Ord. #18, 2005 as specified. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18 2005, AMENDING AND/OR REPEALING CERTAIN SECTIONS IN CHAPTER 923 OF ST. BERNARD'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mrs. Kalb, seconded by Mr. Wilson to suspend with the second and third reading.

**REMARKS**

Mrs. Kalb – I'd like to explain just a few of the changes that we made in the garbage Ordinance. First I would like to thank the committee for all its work, I'd like to thank the Service Director and the Chief of Police for all their input on this. Some more revisions from the Ordinance we passed, I believe it was Ordinance #34, 2005 last year. Since the residents have to do their own carry out now, it seems like people are putting their garbage at any time of the day or night and if not its creating a bit of an eyesore in certain areas so we're trying to clean up the Ordinance a little bit and make it a little bit easier to enforce. One of the things that we changed, we really didn't make too many substantive changes this time around. One of the things that we did is, you have to set your garbage out on the night before collection between 6 and 7:30 in the morning, have it out by 7:30 then we know that you're not going to miss the collection. You take all your trash bins and recycling bins back by 8:00 the day of collection. One of the things we added, because there have been, evidently, some problems around town and that all containers, you need to set your garbage out at least once a week. You don't have to set garbage out for the twice a week pick up but you do have to set it out at least once a week. That's for the health and safety to residents. You don't want to be attracting a lot of rodents and having garbage piled up in your yard. In addition to that, due to the fewer men that we have in the Service Dept., the Service Director would like residents to start putting out their special pick-ups only on the day of collection. We haven't been having the red trucks just run around looking for things as you put them out so that when you have trash day on either your Mon., Thurs. or your Tues., Fri., those are the days that you put out all items for special pick up. Then we created a definition of special pick up. It is basically those large items like furniture and appliances that don't fit in the packer that do require the red truck to stop by and get them. One of the changes that we made in that is we are making the property owners, if you have rental property it is the duty of the property owner to see that their renters do follow these rules and place the trash out for pick up.

I would like to thank, I think I missed thanking Carol Ungruhe that I email her this information first thing this morning, I meant to do it yesterday, God love her, she gets these things out for me very, very quickly and I really appreciate her extra help.

Mr. Wilson – On special pick ups, so what you're saying is they can't set it out on any other day? Can they call, can they still call the Service Dept. on a regular day of the week and have them come and pick it up or er?

Mrs. Kalb – Yes, if you call for a special pick up that will happen, but you just can't set it out on the curb and expect the City to see it and come and get it. If you don't want to make a call, then you put it out on your day of collection. If it's not your regular day of collection, then you have to call the City and they will come and pick it up.

Mr. Wilson – Thank you for clarification.

Mr. Stegman – A couple questions for Barb, I know there was, we talked about this at COW, there was some question on the Chief with being all in tuned with what is in the Ordinances and the laws, has that been looked over and been Ok. And there is something I would like to add to this. I hope that after everything gets settled we go ahead and get these dates and times in the areas in which we're going so the people do know, because this has been a problem, I appreciate Barb and the Administration for working on this and getting this problem, but I hope we get the information out to the public so that they know when their dates are.

Mrs. Kalb – To answer your first question, Phil, yes, I did email this to the Police Chief and he read it over and told me that he agreed with everything I had done so that, that is not a problem with the Chief of Police. As far as your second question, yes, the City has prepared a flyer that does specify which certain areas of the City are collected, their garbage collection days are, it also lists the holidays. It lists a lot of these new rules for the residents, it lists all the different types of recycling that the City collects. The Boy Scout will be delivering that Door to Door on Monday night, May 9<sup>th</sup>, so that all the residents will be getting notified of these changes and some of them just aren't changes they are just reminding people of the practices that we've been doing all along.

Mr. Zix. - I too would like to thank Mrs. Kalb for all the work, I think this is overdue and thank the Boy Scouts in advance for their help passing the flier out. I think education is really going to be key. I guess I would like to thank the Police and the Safety Director in advance for enforcement. Thank you again, Barb.

## **AUDIENCE**

George Pritchard, 42 Minmore Drive - - According to the Ordinance, the way I understand it, how much is this going to cost us?

Mrs. Kalb – I'm sorry, Mr. Pritchard, cost you for what?

George Prichard – Well, for the Ordinance, to process the Ordinance, that you're just about ready to sign into?

Mrs Kalb – I'm not aware of any cost to establish an Ordinance.

George Pritchard – You're not aware of it at all?

Mrs. Kalb – I'm not sure that I understand your question.

George Pritchard – It's real simple, you got an Ordinance, it's going to require people to perform that Ordinance. How much is it gonna cost? A citation?

Mrs. Kalb – Are you asking about the penalty for violations of this Ordinances?

George Pritchard – No, I'm asking how much is this gonna cost?

Mrs. Kalb – Or how much is this going to cost to pay Police Officers to enforce it?

George Pritchard – For the whole package.

Mrs. Kalb – I have no idea how I can do that.

George Pritchard – If you're going to present an amendment, you should give an itemized list of what its going to cost, man hours, or woman hours, whatever you want to call it and how much is it going to cost us tax payers to implement these Ordiannces, or is it free?

Mrs. Kalb – I rally honestly do not know how to answer that, Mr. Pritchard.

George Pritchard – OK That's fine, you don't know how to answer that one. I do want to ask one question, though, it surprised me, The honorable Mayor, John is it true

Mr. Walden – Does this pertain to the Ordinance on what's in front of us at this point?

George Pritchard – I just wanted to ask one question because were all thanking everybody about the passage

Mr. Walden – There will be an opportunity for the audience to speak to Council on other matters later in the meeting, but at this point we're only focusing on Ordinance 18.

George Pritchard – OK, well I got the answer to that Ordinance 18.

Mr. Walden – You're welcome to come back up during the audience participation.

George Pritchard – Oh, well thank you very much, that's very nice of you.

Motion on suspension passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mrs. Kalb to adopt Ordinance #18, 2005 as amended. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 19, 2005, AMENDING AND/OR REPEALING CERTAIN SECTIONS IN CHAPTER 523 OF ST. BERNARD'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion by Mr. Kalb, seconded by Mr. Wilson to suspend with the second and third readings of Ordinance #19.

**REMARKS**

Mrs. Kalb – The reason that we are amending this section of the codified ordinance is to make it consistent with the sections of the codified ordinances that we just passed in Ordinance #18. One of the things that we did was require that people put their trash out for pick up at least once a week. Our ordinance under public nuisance which prohibits the storage or collection of junk, motor vehicles or garbage on your premises, currently we're saying that you can't have it there for more than ten days, since Ordinance #18 established a one week time period we are amending this section of the codified ordinances to also say that if you have garbage accumulating in your yard, motor vehicles or junk for more than seven days you are in violation of Section 2, it is a public nuisance.

Mr. Zix – Is this also, Mrs. Kalb, the same enforcement, the person enforcing this would be the Public Safety Director or designee?

Mrs. Kalb – Off the top of my head, I can't say for sure, it is a totally different chapter and I'm not sure what the enforcement is. This is considered under the general chapter 500 of the codified ordinances. All the general ordinances are enforced by the Police Dept. also. I can't say specifically that that is the case here. I will get the answer for you and let you know.

Mr. Zix – Thank you.

Motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to adopt Ordinance #19 as read.

Motion passed 7-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Stegman to go into Executive Session after the meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

**AUDIENCE**

Mike Wiedmann, Service Dept. Representative, 20 Oak St., - I would just like to expand on Mr. Kempe's statement before. I would like to make a statement on behalf of myself my fellow representatives, Joe, Don and Bill,

and my fellow co-workers, Ken, Carol, Dave, Bill, Stephanie, Mark, Roy, Mike, Angelo, Joe, Ed, Jason, Jamie, Jerry, Mike and Bill. The Service Dept. would like to thank Chris Sauer and the levy committee for their hard work. The community churches for their prayers, the children who made the departmental banners for the Ecumenical Service at St. Clement Church on Mon., May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and our most important thank you to the citizens of St. Bernard for their support of the May 3<sup>rd</sup> tax levy. Your support has put the past behind us and brightened the future for the entire City. Thank you very much.

George Pritchard, Minmore Dr. – Is it true, by a show of hands, in this group, you attended Mon. to pray for this vigil for the tax levy, is that true?

Mrs. Brickweg – I did attend the prayer service, but the prayer service I attended was to pray for the future of St. Bernard. They specifically said, the three men in charge of it that we were not praying for the levy but that we were praying for the future of St. Bernard.

George Pritchard – We're not praying for a tax levy?

Mrs. Brickweg – No sir.

George Pritchard – Oh, OK. So in five years, the way I understand it, the voters have to renew the 7 million?

Mr. Stegman – That's 7 mills, not 7 million.

George Pritchard – Well that amounts to pretty much.

Mr. Stegman – Yes, I would love to have 7 million, too, but it is 7 mills.

George Pritchard – Well, they did have 7 million quite a few years ago and kind of run into a problem.

Mr. Stegman – It is, yes, after 5 years it will have to be put back up for the voters to renew it.

George Pritchard – And when it does be put back up, will we put it up as a renewal?

Mr. Stegman – Yes, that is how I see it, Mr. Pritchard.

George Pritchard – Yea, because a renewal always comes with the thing, this is not a tax, remember that. OK. I can't believe that people, that I live here for 50 years, minus the 4 years during the Vietnam War, that would go to Church and pray for a tax levy. I just can't believe you guys do that. Now, since I've been in the City and since I've been in the Community I've worked hand in hand with the Kiwanis Org., Boy Scouts, T-Ball Program, everything. I did it under a program called volunteer. It didn't cost nothing. I don't expect nothing in return. I owed that City that from when I was growing up, I had opportunities given to me, I enjoyed some of the parks and everything as well as Mr. Estep, the Honorable John Estep, Mayor and I'm quite shocked as how everything has turned out. I'm very shocked, very

disappointed, I can't believe, I believe that we're headed right, I was told by a person this afternoon, who is more informed about this system, that we're headed towards an Amberly Village situation, where the City will take over, if things don't change. Now, we laid off Policemen or we threatened to lay off Policemen, or all they all Firemen, it don't matter. But we were going to lay them off there. Did anybody in Council or the President of Council, or even the Mayor, has any of you ever decided to think well maybe if I donated my salary back to the City and do this on a volunteer basis. Has that ever come across anybody's mind? Another question, last week, before the tax levy, 5<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Bank got robbed. The guy came in there, with, according to the bank manager that I talked yesterday, and he had a bomb strapped to him and it was set to go off at a certain period of time. And he left and he took with him approximately \$2,000, according to the dispatcher. Did you know they caught him today? OK, OK. One person knows they caught him. Did you call down there and take a look at the individuals, the picture, who he was and what's going on, the course of action or corrective action that was going to be done by the Police Dept. in coordinance with the 5<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Bank?

Mr. Walden – No sir, I heard it on the news right before I came down.

George Pritchard – Oh you heard it on the news. OK. When someone, we have kids that go to the 5<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Bank and make deposits from the school between those hours as part of a task for whatever project they had want. This guy comes in threatening to blow the whole place up. So he gets \$3,000.00, he hops in a van and he leaves. According to the President it was going to, the time frame for that bomb to go off was going to be 15 minutes. Now, we're 2 min. walking distance to the Police Dept. The guy, why he's caught, they didn't kill him, they didn't shoot him, they got him, and it was nice enough for Channel 9 News to explain us in detail how the captured him, so that all those special tricks that the Police are using was broadcasted right on the radio, everybody else, now that guy is going to get out in 2 to 5 years and he'll do it better this time. Now you guys all are concerned about the citizens of St. Bernard, and the health and our way of life, but nobody checked with the Police Dept. about a threat that involved a bomb in a bank that could have taken out maybe 12 to 15 people during those hours. Nobody went up to the Fire Dept., I mean the Police Dept., nobody checked with the President of 5<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Bank to find out what kind of action or reaction or corrective action was going to be taken.

Mr. Walden – You have well passed the 5 min. allowance and I'm going to have to ask you to sit down so that anyone else can speak. You will be entitled to another 5 min.

George Pritchard – That's fine, I've seen enough, but the prayer vigil was right, we desperately need prayers, but not for taxes.

Mr. Schildmeyer – Thank you Mr. Pritchard, we appreciate you comments. I think the Police Chief and the bank administration handled the whole situation quite correctly and we'll get a report from the Police Chief through the Safety Director, and she'll inform us on just how everything came about, we really do appreciate your comment. Thank you.

George Pritchard – Well, Mr. Schildmeyer, the Police Chief is on vacation.

Mrs. Brickweg – I did not talk to them today, but the day it happened and since then I have been emailing back and forth with Officer Ungruhe and Mr. Moeller and they have been giving me an update on it and I did talk to them, I saw it come across the internet at my work and I emailed directly to Sandy Rapien. I did not hear that they caught him today, but a few days after I was talking to them asking them what was going on and if they were investigating it.

George Pritchard – I go directly to the source, I don't wait for an email.

Mrs. Brickweg – I was at my job in O'Bryonville so that was the best way I could.

.George Pritchard – I left my job and went down to find out because I care.

Mr. Walden – Mr. Pritchard, we have other people that need to speak. We need to let them use the microphone.

Gabe Sanders, 4415 Sullivan Ave. – I also work at 5<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Bank. I want to thank Mr. Pritchard for his concern for the safety of my staff and myself. I did want to also thank the City of St. Bernard's Police Dept., specifically, detective Matheson, who has worked very diligently on the situation. They did an excellent job with the situation. Everything was fine, everyone was safe, we appreciated it. I did want to let everybody know that the employees at my banking center wanted to publicly thank both the Police Dept., Detective Matheson and also the Fire Dept. for coming out and assisting us. Thank you very much.

Butch Baur, 150 Delmar Ave., - I'd like to repeat a request that I made two weeks ago at a Council Meeting. That was that Council consider putting COW on Cable Access. I'm going use this even as an example as to why. My request of two weeks ago was discussed at COW last week. The decision was made that COW is a working meeting, which I agree with, that is your time to discuss freely, you don't necessarily have to open up the floor to the public if you don't want to, that is your choice. Bottom line, the discussion was had at that meeting last week, the public has no idea what your decision or what your response to that request was, because COW doesn't get out. So, using that as my example, that is why I think it would be an excellent tool, and an excellent way to get the information out to the public of what goes on. I'm not asking that you necessarily open up the floor to the public, that's, again, that's your prerogative, but it is when you do most of your work. It's when you get a lot accomplished and it would give citizens a chance to see what you're doing, what you're discussing and give them some insight as to what you're thinking when you make decisions that you make at Council meetings.

Mr. Zix – To answer Butch, last week we did decide against that, I'm firmly against it because I think it's a working meeting and we need to discuss things in detail, it's a working meeting, it's simply that. Some areas it's a good thing, I never really thought of but some people don't like to be talking

on TV and that gives them the outlet also to speak at the meeting that is not televised. I will publicly say that I am against that.

Mrs. Brickweg – Mr. Baur, there was not a vote but it was the agreement that they wouldn't be televised, but I do not agree with that, I do agree that it is a working meeting but I also agree that we work the public so the public has a right to see what goes on and like you said that's a lot of times when most of the most important issues are discussed in great detail. I think we should televise it maybe if Council wants to look at it in the future maybe there could be a compromise if they did not want to have the public speak at the COW, I don't know but I personally think that all the meetings should be televised.

Mrs. Kalb – Last week at the COW meeting I stated that I was not in favor of Cable TV for the reasons that we needed to have sessions where people were concerned about addressing Council in front of the TV cameras, this would give them a forum to not do that. After the meeting someone came up to me and told my they were a little disappointed in my vote and I've been giving it a lot of thought the last week and I really think that I voted that way more for selfish reasons than for the public reasons. I am much more comfortable speaking at COW meetings than I am at Council meetings. Our words are not recorded verbatim, my demeanor at a Council meeting is very different than my demeanor at a COW meeting and I think I was concerned that it would affect the way I do things. I have a tendency to talk even more at COW meetings than I do at Council meetings, and a lot of times I ask a series or dumb questions in order to understand things and I think I was concerned about how I was going to come across but actually I have been it a lot of thought the last week and I think regardless of that, I didn't change the way I act at Council meetings when we went on TV, I don't anticipate that I will change the way I act if we televise COW meetings and so I'm going to change my position and say that I am in favor televising them.

Mr. Burkhardt – I had a two phone calls this past week from residents who have spoken at COW before and they stated that they would never have spoken had it been on TV, so I would still like to keep it off of TV for that reason to give citizens a chance that don't want to be on TV to have a place to come and talk to Council informally.

Forrest Hudson, Minmore – As a resident, speaking as a resident I want to thank those that passed this levy, I'm hoping that it will open some doors that have been closed. I was hoping Sheri was going to be here tonight because I have a couple of questions that maybe she might be able to answer so maybe I'll consolidate and maybe Walt can do me the honor here. Exactly when will the revenue money start coming into the City?

Mr. St. Clair – I believe the increase in the income tax of .1% becomes effective July 1 of this year, so I would assume we would start seeing receipts when that those payments would be due, which I think would be Aug. 15. One the property tax, it will be levied on 2005 evaluation will be collected in 2006. We normally get our first property tax receipts in the spring, so I think in the spring of 2006 we will start seeing some of increased property tax receipts.

Forrest Hudson – OK, so we're looking at Aug. before we see an improvement in revenue?

Mr. St. Clair – For the income tax, yes, that is correct.

Forrest Hudson – OK, so that should generate what about half million dollars?

Mr. St. Clair – I don't think so.

Mr. Stegman – To recall for the year it was only going to be \$300,000. So if it's only a half of years collection it will probably be about \$150,000.

Forrest Hudson – OK, I guess my second question is, I was looking here tonight and I see where the Fire Dept. overtime has an expenditure of over \$9,000. I thought there was a no call in policy that was supposed to be there, can anybody enlighten as to why that is there or how it got spent?

Mr. St. Clair – We had, when the four Fire Fighters were laid off , they had accumulated deferred time off, which is another form of compensatory time and they had to be paid out for that and that was taken from that line item because it is a compensatory time or overtime.

Forrest Hudson – OK, and that was something new? I don't think we've ever done that in the past any of the old guys were maybe going to support that.

Mr. Stegman – No one has ever been laid off.

Forrest Hudson – OK. Since we're going to be receiving this money, is there a possibility of these laid off employees being returned. I guess that is the Administration's response?

Mr. Estep – At this point we did not see that that would be part of the plan.

Forrest Hudson – OK, That is all I have.

Mrs. Brickweg – Just to add to that, I don't know if it was a miscommunication or what, but I got about 15 phone calls since Tues. people wanting to know when the people are going to get their jobs back. I'm not talking Firemen or Policemen. I'm talking actually today to somebody that works here in St. Bernard, and I explained to her that that we never optioned, but I don't know if the citizens were confused or what. At first I just thought it was a few people confused, but then it keeps happening so that kind of caught me off guard and my second question is, when we use money like that shouldn't Council have to transfer or know about that when you are taken the overtime to pay that out because I thought the overtime was in there for when we went down to 1 or 2 officers to call in back up so basically we can't call in any back up not?

Mr. St. Clair – The original appropriation covered what I had to pay out for the deferred time off so, yes, that would decrease the amount that could be called. In.

Mrs. Brickweg – How is that different than what we did with the Police Dept. Ordinance last time? We transferred the \$1,000. for Office Doddy and that went in ordinance form and Council knew about it. How is that different than what we did for the Fire Dept.?

Mr. St. Clair – The difference would be that, for the Police Dept. there was no money in that line item so we had to make an appropriation to put money in that line item. With the Fire Dept., there was money in the line item.

Mrs. Brickweg – Just to add to the COW meeting that I know, Beth said to talk about staffing, it sounds like we really need to take that into consideration, if there is no money to call people in for overtime, there's times when there is just one or two officers down there and sometimes there's not and I know there's been a lot of talk of different police offers leaving or going out and we're going to be left a lot of police officers so I think that is something that Council and the Chiefs need to be here to discuss the staffing levels so that they're safe.

Mr. Stegman – Joe, since we're talking about this money and how we're trying to spend it, do you have some kind of idea of the streets that are deteriorating and that could be a priority at this time of the year. Is that something that you could bring to COW and tell us where you are at?

Mr. Kempe – Yes, we are still working on it, I'm waiting for one other company to come in and survey the streets and give us some quotes on what they are. He was supposed to have come in last week and they couldn't get a crew together to get that accomplished. He probably isn't going to be in here until next week. I'll call him again and find out when he can get in here. We're also waiting for JMA, they are going to evaluate Spring Grove Ave. and see what is going to be entailed with that, so we're waiting on some companies to back with some quotes and that is the only thing we're waiting on so I don't think I'll have it ready for the next COW.

Also, while I have the microphone, Sheri could not make it tonight, her daughter became very ill today, she had to go to the hospital so that is where she is at. She did plan on coming but she couldn't be here. I just wanted to let you know that.

Joan Ronnenberg, 4217 Sullivan Ave. – In regard to televising the COW meetings, possibly we could consider televising the COW meetings but then stopping the tape when the residents have their time to get up and speak, that would be something to think about.

On the levy, thanks to everybody for doing it, but the signs are still around the City, I've been collecting some, the signs can be thrown away but we're saving the metal brackets because somebody had lent us some of those so if people can save them, I don't know where we can deposit them.

Mr. Kempe – If they want to call me, I can pick them up or if they want to bring them down to City Hall, I'll take care of them.

Joan Ronnenberg – Yes, I asked one of the men this morning doing the garbage that if they saw them to take the off the signs. I went around doing that but I didn't do the whole City so thanks everybody.

Bill Katenkamp, 221 Washington Ave. – I came home about a week a half ago and I turned on the news while I started to eat, I became very angry at the fact that a story was put out on Channel 9 News about our Mayor, John Estep. I was wondering, I think Ed Geiser could maybe give me more insight on this. I would like to know who has the authority to release Police tape to the media in a situation like that?

Mr. Geiser – There is actually an investigation going on at the present time about that. Mr. Luken is looking into that, so until that investigation is over, I'm not going to comment. If Ms. Luken wants to talk about that at this time, she can, but with a pending investigation, and the advice that I would have to give, I would prefer not to talk at this time.

Bill Katenkamp – OK, thank you very much. I'd just like to add my personal opinion to it if I could. I was very angry at that fact. I don't know who had the authority to release things like that, I think the calls coming in to the Police station to the Fire station or whatever should be totally related to safety, crime, whatever. I think that is the purpose, if someone would like to comment on that, why they are taped? If there is a discrepancy like lets say if we have a house fire somewhere or a child is choking and a mother is hysterical and she is giving the information so erratically and so hurriedly that they can't might make out the address and she hangs up the phone, the paramedic wagons, the Fire Dept. can be alerted and they can maybe run back the tape and make more sense of it and clear it up. I do not think that any type of tape that's monitored in any way coming into the Police Dept. should be meant to attack anyone. Be it the Mayor, be it you, Council at Large, be it a citizen, be it anyone in this Community. I think it gives us a very bad name and I was appalled at that and I would like to see Council and Ed, I'm glad it is in litigation and being talked about, but I hope that this never happens again, that if it does happen again that it has severe consequences to the person or persons who do things like this. We need to understand that there are difficulties in our City and we all have problems but we all have to work together and when we attack each other like that we are not accomplishing anything, we not accomplishing anything by stating our business to the tri-state area.

Mr. Geiser – One comment please, a lot of the things you agree with and most of us do agree with but if you research there is case law that goes all the way up to the Ohio Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court about 911 and it's still constantly changing, unfortunately most 911 tapes eventually become public record and there's not a whole lot you can stop them from being released. That was mainly due to a lot of fights by the newspaper agencies and the press. Council and the City is very limited in protecting those 911 tapes.

Peggy Elton, 4253 Leonard Ave. – I also saw the same news report and I was also very angry, but I was angry at the way our Mayor acted. Him and I have emailed each other and he said himself that he would like to move on

with this and I think we should and that's why I think the investigation should stop. John, if you want us to move on, then you need to move on too.

Bill Katenkamp – I think what happened with John was very unfortunate, but he has apologized and on the other end of the stick I haven't heard any apology from the other side, whoever was involved and if he was being followed home, I'm sure after repetitive times anyone would get a little upset. John is very human like anybody else, he has feelings and he's doing his best under a lot problems that he's inherited. There was fault on both sides and John has admitted that he was wrong in certain things and he's apologized and so in that respect I think he's trying to move on but I want to make sure as a citizen that we do move on, but in the future nothing like this happens again and if it does then whoever is responsible for trying to attack someone in this manner, using City tape that's monitored, should be severely disciplined in some way shape or form.

George Pritchard – I got one other thing. I went down to the Hamilton County Board of Elections and I got the 2 parties contributions and expenditures for their reelection campaigns. Because this is a City and our tax money is paid for and it is clearly in the view of the lawyers that we have a right to find out what's going on and stuff like that and that's why I went down there. I would like to thank the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers that gave \$2,000.00 to the Party. I won't mention the Party's name, I think I would rather you guys go down there and it find out if you're really interested. I would like to thank certain employees, certain individuals because I was kind of shocked as why would the IBEW give \$2,000 to a reelection campaign. It's public record, it's down there. Can anybody answer that for me?

Mr. Burkhardt – Because I'm a member of the IBEW and they donate to my campaign.

George Pritchard – They donate \$2,000 to your campaign. And how do you thank them?

Mr. Burkhardt – I thank them by donating to their CO-Committee every pay check.

George Pritchard – Did you thank them and cause they gave it to the to your Party, I guess.

Mr. Burkhardt – Correct, for political reasons and ethics, they donate to the Party.

George Pritchard – You should have asked them for about eight million bucks.

Mr. Burkhardt – I wish I could. They do have limits.

George Pritchard – They just donate to the Party because they're a bunch of good guys?

Mr. Burkhardt – Yes, on my behalf.

Mr. Burkhardt – The next COW will be Thurs., May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Stegman to go into Executive Session. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Zix to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.