

Beth Gardner
THE LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT.

AUGUST 30, 2010

RE: PUBLIC SERVICE & CAMPAIGN PROMISE

I am responding to your request that I agree with and sign your PUBLIC SERVICE & CAMPAIGN PROMISE that you presented to me on Wednesday August 25, 2010.

I agree with your basic idea, however, I am concerned about a number of things. Your efforts to promote respectful campaigns and subsequent leadership are commendable. After careful consideration these are some of the areas of concern I have relating to this document and why I feel that I cannot agree to your request at this time as it has been presented.

1. I feel that it is far too ambiguous, subjective and open to interpretation.
2. I feel that it prevents me from disclosing pertinent information about the records and behaviors of those running for these positions, which I believe our community has a right to know.
3. I feel it violates my freedom of speech and of those who support me.
4. I feel that there is no way to fairly monitor this agreement.
5. I do not feel that I am willing to submit to an unknown group, and have them, whoever they are pass judgment upon me. I submit myself to God, my wife, the elders of my church and of course the voters in our district.
6. I feel that this is redundant in that I have already signed a similar agreement with the Registrar of Voters.
7. I feel that this could shelter those who have something to hide while hindering the rest of us.
8. I feel that full disclosure is a good thing.
9. I feel that it's my responsibility to inform the voters completely and to let the voters decide.

I respectfully ask that you not publish the results of your request, for I believe that it may result in the type of campaigning that you are trying to avoid. If you still believe it is necessary to release this information to the media I would appreciate 48 hours and allow me equal space to explain why I cannot agree with your proposed document. If I'm not allowed this I feel that this could reflect poorly upon me simply for not agreeing with your request. I would also request that you release and print the document in it's entirety so that the voters have a full understanding of the agreement that you're requesting me to sign.

Respectfully Submitted,


James Smith

CC: Judi Bowers, The Grizzly



THE LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT
Creating Child Honoring Communities

September 3, 2010

Mr. James Smith
1200 E. Big Bear Boulevard
Big Bear City, CA 92314
Re: Public Service and Campaign Promise

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you very much for attending our Candidate Workshop, consideration of our campaign promise and for your letter of August 30, 2010. As we discussed during the workshop, it is a common occurrence within our great democracy for people to agree on what is in the best interest of our country or community, but not necessarily on how to accomplish the "what". Your honest, direct and open concerns regarding the campaign are appreciated.

Given your itemization of the concerns with the campaign expressed in your letter, I felt it best to reply in a similar format so as to provide you with our perspective on each of your concerns.

1. The language of the promise is intended to be philosophical and not prescriptive – that is to say that, by design, we hope that each person signing the promise will keep it in their minds and hearts as they campaign, but their freedom to express themselves is not limited. They are the only judges of whether or not their behavior matches their promise.
2. The promise is not intended to prevent disclosure of any pertinent information. It only asks that information is delivered with respect and dignity and pertains to facts and not conjecture.
3. Because adherence to the promise is left to the sound judgment of each candidate, there is no limitation of freedom of speech, it merely reminds candidates to campaign ethically and respectfully and to focus on the content most relevant to voters and most likely to support the progress of our community.
4. As you point out in items 5 and 9, all monitoring and judgment (if you wish to call it that) is left ultimately to voters
5. Same as item 4.
6. We agree that the promise could be considered redundant. However, we point out that current elected officials and recent candidates have signed the County (and City, if applicable) agreements, and yet our community continues to suffer from dysfunction due to negative campaign tactics.
7. We are unclear as to how the promise can shelter anyone. The language asks candidates to focus on issues and not make personal attacks. It does not prohibit the disclosure of verifiable proof of any wrongdoing or character defects that could endanger the public trust, provided that this is done ethically, publically and with dignity.
8. We agree that full disclosure is a very good thing. We believe it must be done respectfully and with the intention of informing voters through facts.
9. We agree fully with item 9.

The intention to make public the list of candidates who have signed the promise is to alert voters to the possibility that we can expect better behavior from our candidates and elected officials than we have seen in years and elections past. I would venture to say that should those candidates who choose not to sign the promise conduct highly ethical and informative campaigns, voters will still reward them with their support. In the spirit of full disclosure, would you not wish to let voters know yourself that you have chosen not to sign and why? Although you have already provided your reasoning to The Grizzly, we will certainly give you advance notice of any press release from The Lighthouse Project indicating participation in the program. All candidates, of course, are free to express whether or not they have signed.

The Campaign Promise is available to all voters on our web site at www.bigbearlighthouse.com. As we discussed in our telephone conversation this afternoon, we will also post your position letter to our web site so voters will have access to your perspective.

Once again, I want to thank you for your careful consideration and for the opportunity to respond to your concerns. We wish you all the best and thank you for your willingness to serve the community.

Best regards,

Beth Gardner
Program Director
The Lighthouse Project, Inc.