

How the County wins and You the Unincorporated Areas Lose!

Before you stands a great opportunity to bring local government closer to the wants and needs of your area. Every community that has preceded you on this path has seen great success for their residents. So why would County Hall and the special interest around it be against allowing you to have your own say on your future? It's simple, the county benefits from you in ways you don't even know.

Over the years, I have served on numerous boards and elected positions as well as served as a County Commissioner for the West Dade area. An area that donates sixteen million municipal dollars annually to the bottomless pit that is Miami Dade County government. I also chaired the county's budget committee for two years, so I know how this works, and everything I have seen and experienced has convinced me we are being taken for a ride.

The sad truth is that the county is a bureaucratic self-serving entity. As such it takes your money and provides you with a mediocre cookie cutter approach to services in the unincorporated areas. Then if anybody talks about establishing their own municipality they throw out the red hearing that incorporation areas that are donor areas, like yours, will leave poor areas at a disadvantage. That's how they get the political upper hand and it is total nonsense. The truth is the county commingles county and UMSA (municipal taxes) funds in a shell game that doesn't allow you to see how they spend that so called surplus. This surplus easily approaches 100 million dollars and it is what the county uses to balance out their finances. Think of it as a slush fund for to make the numbers work.

Another shameful County tactic that is basic extortion is this practice of requiring mitigation from areas that want to incorporate. It's your money. It's what you pay for municipal services. Subsidizing county inefficiency and anachronistic practices is not a municipal service. That money belongs to you and should be spent to your benefit. If the county wants to address pockets of severe poverty (as it should) then the County budget is the appropriate taxing mechanism. We as a community should all be involved in fighting inequality and poverty, not just the unincorporated areas.

I could go on and on pointing out how as a municipality you will have access to state and federal funds and grants, how you will get transit tax money you currently don't get from the half cent tax you all pay, and how your ability to negotiate with utilities will get you better services and greater franchise fees. You can have people who knows your parks and streets making better decisions with your money as opposed to somebody who lives in Broward and works in a cubicle downtown. You will be able to create a greater sense of community that will enhance your schools and benefit you in countless ways. Follow the money and the choice becomes obvious.

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