

Submitted to Bellevue Leader for the Jan 27 Issue 1999

## RECKLESS EDITORIAL

Your December 23, 1998 editorial titled "A RECKLESS VOTE" is a reckless editorial. It is insulting to me and to the majority of the city council. It is also hypocritical and divisive. Please go back and read your editorial dated December 9, 1998 "A NEW COUNCIL", that Jerry Ryan read at his installation as mayor. He quoted your editorial saying that in tight votes the council should resist the urge to crow from those that won and those who lost, lose graciously". I would assume he was including himself. The majority voted to replace S.P. Benson as city administrator. Your December 23, 1998 editorial is divisive and inflammatory because you use such words as reckless, petty, instability, capriciousness, and bizarre to describe either the vote or council members who voted no to S.P. Benson. You also indicated that the city of Bellevue is in serious trouble because of the vote. How ridiculous. Four of the six council members have worked with S.P. Benson for a number of years. They have a right to vote the way they want. Also four of those six council members will be working with the new city administrator for four years. Three of the four that voted for S.P. Benson will only be in for another 2 years and they may not run again or may not win an election if they do decide to run. You had one letter to the editor that indicated my vote shouldn't count. How idiotic. When he says I shouldn't vote and you say my vote was reckless, what you are really saying that the voters who voted me into office were reckless voters. They voted me in because they wanted a change. I knocked on over 95% of the homes in my ward both before the primary and the general election. The majority of people I talked to said they wanted change. This is not a weak reason. You also stated that micromanaging is petty. If you call checking to make sure the city is run properly and efficiently, micromanaging -- then I know the majority of my voters want me to be a micromanager councilman. The city administrator works for me and my constituents. I have an obligation to them, which I plan on fulfilling.

Your editorial is divisive when you tried to make this vote "personal" by saying the "council delivered incoming Mayor Ryan a slap in the face". Mayor Ryan shouldn't take this personal, because the vote would have been the same no matter who was elected mayor. I find it ironic if Mayor Ryan takes it personally because a number of people who vigorously campaigned for him were under the impression that he was going to replace S.P. Benson. Those campaigners left the voters with that impression. More importantly these campaigners feel Mayor Ryan wouldn't have won the election without their support and efforts.

Another quote from your December 9 editorial, "Our hope for the council that will guide Bellevue over the next two years - and for Ryan, who will guide us through at least four - is that it get on with the job". Mayor Ryan's job right now is to submit a new appointment for city administrator for approval by the city council. Mayor Ryan campaigned on his leadership skills and his ability to work with others. I think he has these skills and leadership ability. Any further delay would be an indication of his inability to work with the majority of the city council. So I agree with the Bellevue Leader. Jerry - let's get on with the job of finding a new city administrator.

Chuck Fredrick  
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cc: Mayor Ryan  
City Council  
World Herald