

Election 2011

Part 2: Protect Us From Our Protectors

By Dick Farmer

The advertising hucksters on Madison Avenue make use of a concept known as “parity.” If products of a particular type, say gasoline for example, are considered to be of equal quality the concept of parity allows any brand to be advertised as “the best.” This concept has caught on in the way political candidates are marketed to voters. He, or she, is said to be the “best candidate,” “the most qualified,” “the most dedicated,” and/or “the most trusted.” If you consider all politicians to be scoundrels then the concept of parity certainly applies.

The crafters of weasel words take matters to the next level when they come up with campaign slogans for their candidates and causes. In Boulder City, in 2007, the recall effort against Travis Chandler and Linda Strickland went forward under the banner of “*Protect Our Future*.” In the council race of 2009 Cam Walker ran to “protect our quality of life.” (If you are one of Cam’s neighbors, living adjacent to the Boulder Creek Golf Club, he delivered on that promise as the golf course has stayed open.) This year the mantra is “protect our unique quality of life.” With that said I have to ask, are “we” them, are they “us,” and exactly what do I need to be protected against?

Protect Our Future does not currently appear as either a registered political action committee or non-profit corporation. The group formed in opposition to the accountability/cost cutting measures proposed by Chandler and Strickland, and perhaps to exact a measure of revenge for the public evaluation of City Manager Vicki Mayes in November of 2007. The first recorded donation was made on 2/22/08. In all eighteen donors contributed over 99% of the \$28,737.48 collected to fund the recall effort against Chandler and Strickland. Over 75% of the money came from members of the Boulder City Sunrise Rotary, their family members and associates. A list of donors and contributions appears at the bottom of this article. As far as names go, *Protect Our Future* was a much better choice than “Can Chandler,” “Rotarians Against Responsible Government,” or “Sunset For Strickland.”

Part of *Protect Our Future*’s program to purchase public opinion included sending paid signature gathers into our community to pitch the recall petitions. There was valid concern over just what some of the signatures gathers might have said in order to get residents to sign the recall documents. Misrepresentation of the intent or purpose of a recall petition is a crime. When a group of people join together to plan and commit a crime it is called a “conspiracy,” and that is a separate crime in itself. Strickland followed up with some of the Boulder City residents whose names appeared both on the petitions opposing the recall and those in favor of it. As a result Strickland was able to gather sixteen sworn statements, called “affidavits,” from residents who stated, under penalty of perjury, that they had been misled into signing the recall petition.

The story broke in the July 8th, 2008 issue of the *Boulder City View*. (You can still get the article online at <http://www.viewnews.com/2008/VIEW-Jul-08-Tue2008/BoulderCity/22524700.html>) If our police ever investigated the matter they did so very quietly because they never contacted Strickland to view or request copies of the sixteen affidavits. Maybe the police were too embarrassed to investigate because all the work was

already done. There could also be other reasons. As City Attorney, Dave Olsen also serves as Boulder City's criminal prosecutor. Dave was a member of the Sunrise Rotary long before the incident with the recall petitions. In fact, during the period at issue, the good citizens of Boulder City were actually paying Dave's Rotary dues with their tax dollars. Chief Finn is also a member of the Sunrise Rotary. I wonder when he made the decision to join?

If you keep track of the names, and follow the money, you will see just how the political machine in Boulder City works. Before you accept anyone's offer of "protection" listen carefully to what they have to say. You want to be sure that you are not one of the people they intend to "protect" them self against. The campaign season is now in full swing. Keep a tight grip on your wallet, and, above all else, keep your friends close and your enemies closer.

PROTECT OUR FUTURE

DONOR	TYPE	AMOUNT
Bob Draney	cash	\$16,100.00
Charles "Pepper" Combs	cash	\$2,500.00
Bob Blair	cash/inkind	\$2,200.00
Ed & Billie Waymire	cash	\$1,500.00
D. L. Gallagher	cash	\$1,000.00
James Beneda	cash/inkind	\$902.04
Gerald & Kathy Ditzler	cash	\$700.00
George Cox	cash/inkind	\$603.44
Christine Milburn	cash	\$542.00
Chris & Frank Carrol	cash	\$500.00
Darwins's Auctions	cash	\$500.00
Georgia McLean	cash	\$500.00
Bruce Anderson	cash	\$300.00
Harold Begley	cash	\$200.00
Les & Cokie Booth	cash	\$200.00
Ronald Neiht	cash	\$200.00
Jim Bob Rowland	cash	\$150.00
Janice Ross	cash	\$100.00
cash donations less than \$100	cash	\$40.00
	Total	\$ 28,737.48