

What's Your Commitment?

Negativity should never be confused with objectivity. People who hear what they do not wish to hear, or who are made to see what they do not want to see, have no escape but denial. The person who sees and understands what is going on is objective. A person must be objective in order to deal with reality. Reality is not defined by any group or majority. If you doubt this just consider the number of individuals and institutions that lost their behinds holding and trading “financial derivatives,” now more commonly called “toxic assets.”

Before I sold my medical supply business (which had customers in several states) I was probably the largest private sector employer in Boulder City. I have served on the hotel board and hospital board, I even coordinated Art in the Park for a couple of years. I have belonged to the Exchange and Optimist Clubs. More recently I taught business classes for Junior Achievement at our elementary school. It is amazing how much more quickly kids seem able to grasp the concepts behind business and finance when compared to some of our civic and elected leaders.

To my way of thinking no one should run for public office who has not first started and successfully operated a business in the private sector. Taking over a business from your dad or your father-in-law does not count anymore than shelving cans at the local grocery store. People whose only experience entails collecting a government paycheck for finding ways to spend tax dollars should probably not seek office either. Remember the 2/3 split on the old city council? You had two people who knew the value of a dollar because they made their money on their own, two people who simply took over (and took credit for) someone else's hard work, and one unfortunate individual who simply never had a clue. Maybe that explains why the council was so consistently divided.

I operated a highly successful business without needing a RDA subsidy. I created jobs by giving my neighbors the opportunity to create value through their work, something you can't say about the Sunrise Cronies. I helped a number of neighbors (the ones with sound business plans) start their own Boulder City based businesses. I have given to causes I considered worthy and even bailed out a few locals whose actions reflected neither good judgment nor a good purpose.

Me “negative?” Not on your life. Saying that you love Boulder City does not prove that you have done a single thing to help or better our community. I have done my part, have you?

Dick Farmer