

Her name is Meg Martines and she serves as the Director of the South Euclid Community Center. As city council reviewed the 2009 fiscal budget, circumstances regarding her salary received unfair innuendo from individuals bent on scoring points for personal vendettas and narrow-minded interests. If one would take a moment to objectively review the proposed budget for 2009, one would see that first and foremost, Ms. Martines' salary request, if fully funded, would still place her well below the other department heads, who by the way are all men. Is council supposed to look the other way when a clear discrepancy exists? Is council not to see the covert acceptance of discrimination desired to be sanctioned by some outside of South Euclid and some inside the city, of her salary request? Ms. Martines' role in the city frequently places her face out in front as representative of our community for others to judge. Her activities and accomplishments are open and available for inspection if one so chooses to take the time to look and not go on hearsay.

I find it interesting that a recent letter to the Sun Messenger highlighted the square footage of the community center implicitly implying that her salary request can be reduced to 6<sup>th</sup> grade math. However, the individual writing that letter had the arrogant audacity to ask the city and by proxy, council, to cover the cost of participating in a hockey league in which his son plays; a league located outside of South Euclid.

We were elected by the citizens of this city to steward its resources, its direction, and more importantly, its vision as a place that welcomes and beckons all those looking for a community which personifies neighborliness and honesty. Council has many people

who constantly challenge and question us, Yakov Lieber and Robert Schoenenwald are two that come to mind and who do so in an open manner and not behind the puppet strings of outsiders who just can't let it go and move on.

Yes, these are difficult and trying economic times; there are foreclosures on every street in this city. There are people wondering this very day if they're going to be able to make their mortgage payments and/or feed their families. City Council is committed to working with this administration in seeing that those families have every opportunity possible to stay in their homes while providing for their families. We will not buckle in the face of cut and paste internet flagellation from those outside the community nor will we cower in the face of threats, explicit or implied. We will lead this city.

The administration and council have worked closely to assure the city's financial stability. While other city's around us are indeed laying off or not hiring, the work of our finance director, Joe Filippo in concert with the other directors and chiefs, our city is able to hold steady in these times. We don't know nor can we predict what the city's economic picture will be down the road but know this, your elected leaders are watching and monitoring the expenditures with all due diligence and oversight.

To insinuate that local officials are buying influence without one shred of evidence questions the integrity of public servants and it's something that I for one, will not let pass unnoticed or unchallenged. Narrow agendas, backward thinking, and myopic perspectives will not serve the residents of this city. They will not be bamboozled, hoodwinked, or lead astray by those whose only quest in life is their own personal self-aggrandizement.

Finally, as someone who has worked with and walked among murderers, rapists, pedophiles, robbers, drug dealers, and those without regard for the humanity of others, I know a threat when it's communicated. As communications 101 says, "it's not the how the deliverer of the message intended for his message to be heard but how the receiver of the message understood it" as a foundation for understanding. The individual did clearly and openly communicate a threat to council members. Sitting behind someone, if in fact that person stayed for the entire meeting, allows for someone to make a statement about intent from a safe distance. As a trained professional and researcher in the area of violence, I'm acutely aware of potential warning signs of an individual's potential for aggressive behavior or even worse. And anger and words associated with that anger are indeed warning signs.

Respectfully Submitted

David B. Miller, Ph.D.  
Council Pro-Tem  
Councilman-at-Large  
City of South Euclid