

Pretext 1

Knowing that Marvin Rotrand and Warren Allmand have been working “DILIGENTLY” on “Democracy in Action” for a long time, I would like to submit a brief which I did not at the Oct.12/06 meeting.

Whether the OFFICE DE CONSULTATION PUBLIQUE de MONTREAL or Mr. Marcel Parent witness this submission is irrelevant. It's importance is that this brief COUPLED with others submitted will form a “MADE IN CDN/NDG” solution to the problem and raise awareness in our Borough.

The reference to “All Mayors from All Boroughs” attending a mega meeting prior to final submissions and decisions is obviously “Wishful thinking” It is included only because all Montreal residents would perceive it positively.

Whether it is now too late to do so it should be tabled or at the very least incorporated into our Borough's Mandate.

Always working together with you

Michael Shafter

Food for Thought #29

REFLECTION ON THE DEMOCRACY IN ACTION MEETING OCT.12, 2006

The meeting was a well kept secret. Someone forgot to tell the people to come...The same amount of people and the same faces we see at our monthly meetings.

There was no Mayor present to give the meeting a sense of credibility. I would suggest one more meeting at which time all Borough Mayors MUST ATTEND, prior to submitting Final RECOMMENDATIONS.

This will draw All variety of Media and in turn, draw the Activists, Residential Associations, Special Interest Groups, Cultural and Ethnic Associations and hopefully many of the other "OWNERS" of our city.

I propose a challenge to ALL BOROUGHES to engage in a little "Friendly Competition"

Total Prize Money - \$1 Million to be divided... \$500,000 to the Best Borough and \$100,000 each to the next 5 Runner Ups!

Each Borough will be evaluated after a 12 month period to show how much they have increased public participation in the Community and the NUMBER AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC REQUESTS, DEMANDS, INIATIVES AND CHANGES WHICH HAVE BEEN "PUT INTO ACTION"

If our Elected Officials win a prize they have "BRAGGING RIGHTS"
IF THEY DON'T... TRY EXPLAINING THAT TO YOUR PEOPLE.

How does OUR Borough Win Top Prize ?

We encourage our residents to submit a Slogan – A Theme reflecting the Emotions of our Vibrant Borough.

For example: "*We Do It for Our Children – We do it for Others*"

I'm sure there will be a lot Better Suggestions!

1st Prize – \$1000, which that individual will donate to the Charity or Non-Profit Organization of their choice. I'm Betting our Children or Senior Citizens will Surprise us !

Each person attending or voicing their opinion at our monthly meetings receives honorable mention.

Hopefully, seeing your Name in Print under the heading "THOSE WHO CARE" will ENTICE OTHERS to come forward.

Any person doing so 5 times or providing exemplary service in our Community receives a Gold Colored Lapel Pin with the Borough Logo, Name Inscription and "5 Word Notation of Your Choice"

I WANT ONE OF THOSE PINS. I WANT TO SHOW MY FAMILY THAT COMMUNITY WORK HAS ITS OWN INTRINSIC REWARD!

And as said before a State of the Art Website, listing all Politicians, Heads of Department, Assistants and their area of Expertise , together with allocation of responsibility to these individuals to make decisions.

The ability that any special interest Group, Residential Association or individual Can be added to "THE PEOPLE'S WEBSITE".

At monthly Borough Meeting each speaker receives 5 minutes to explain the topic, offer solutions and if they so wish ask relevant questions. If questions are not asked please feel free to offer your responses. Having only 2 minutes to explain and ask questions negates The Quality Of The Submission.

Most important immediate "Access to Information". INFORMATION DELAYED IS INFORMATION DENIED!

How else can we be kept up to date on changes to a plan of Action or Development before it is finally approved, Unless of course, you wish it to be a "Well Kept Secret"

The Borough Mayor, not only a city councillor should be on the Executive Council to serve the Best Interest of Our Borough, in FACT and in Perception!

If the civic administration wants Positive Public Perception please appoint Marvin Rotrand city councillor and Michael Applebaum mayor of CDN/NDG. To executive Council Positions as they have for all too long truly been working Towards “ Democracy In Action”

Never should the residents be told that something is in provincial or federal jurisdiction and that the politician cannot do anything.

Our politicians can on our behalf

1. CRITICIZE PUBLICALLY & LOUDLY WHAT THEY BELIEVE IS UNACCEPTABLE
2. ACCESS THE MINISTER OR POLITICIAN ON THE RESIDENT’S BEHALF. THE RESIDENT CANNOT OR DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO DO IT. THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR, CITY COUNCILLOR OR HEAD OF A DEPARTMENT HAS MORE CREDIBILITY AND INFLUENCE BECAUSE OF THEIR POSITION. IF THE FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL OR MUNICIPAL POLITICIAN DOES NOT RESPOND, CRITICIZE AGAIN PUBLICALLY.
3. FOR EXAMPLE, I MADE A TOTAL OF 17 CALLS TO QUEBEC CULTURAL MINISTER, LYNNE BEAUCHAMP AND RECEIVED NO RESPONSE EXCEPT FROM THE SECRETARY OR OTHER WHO GAVE ME NO INFORMATION! CALL THIS DEMOCRACY DENIED!

Lastly, we have no control over whether any or all suggestions are Put into Action by our mega city.

We, do however have the ability to put them into action in our Borough.

Please make the appropriate changes As Soon As Possible.

Let us “Together” re-introduce the “PRIDE” back into our community and show ALL other Boroughs that “WE DO IT BETTER!”

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POST SCRIPT

The above suggestions have been made in Good Faith with Good Mind,
Heart and Passion !

THE PEOPLE FEEL THE SAME! THEY ARE THE OWNERS
OF THE CITY WHO EMPLOY CERTAIN ELECTED OFFICIALS
TO HANDLE THE DAY TO DAY ADMINISTRATION OF OUR CITY
AND BOROUGH.

However they NEVER gave up their right to determine what Course Of Action
Change Or Veto should be made in political decisions.

Unfortunately it has been our Government that all too often has
“ KEPT US IN THE DARK ”

This will take place no Longer and will shortly be the Main Political Platform
Provincially, Federally and Municipally in the hope that Negative Perception ,
Pessimism and Apathy will give Way to Positive Perception , Optimism ,
Activism.

I quote from article “ Councillors Sound Off ” on “ Democracy In Action”
David Coldberg Feb: 26/06- West End Chronicle .
www.westendchronicle.com

NDG city councillor Marcel Tremblay agrees with Zajdel on certain points .

He fears a constant consultation with the public could dampen economic growth in the borough. “ Democracy is a good thing. But when it goes too far and stops certain projects, that’s when I have a problem,” he said “ Where do we stop (consultation) ? Because we’ll never satisfy everyone”.

Please Mr. Tremblay, Clarify your Statement!

- CHANGE IT !
- Tell me Your Specific Words were Incorrect- Out Of Context.!
- The Public should **never stop talking** or be **consulted !**
- Only as said before “Access To Information Without Delay” will keep the **Residents Enlightened & Educated** concerning changes and course Of Action on Developments.

Lastly! a fine politician, Helen Fotopoulos, Mayor is ,claiming on behalf of her Borough Le Plateau Mont-Royal to be the first “To Give The City Back To The People” The people “are consulted on how our budget will work and towards what our money will be spent and hopefully from here we will engage our RESIDENTS in other areas of their choosing”

BRAVO ! Mme Fotopoulos ! You Are An Inspiration To All Working Towards A Better Course Of Action In The Future .