

GOOD EVENING. THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO PARTICIAPTE IN TONIGHT'S FORUM. MY NAME IS TOM TRESSER AND I'M THE RECOGNIZED GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

I CONSIDER MY SELF A SERIAL SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR – HAVING STARTED OR LED 13 NONPROFIT ENTERPRISES OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS. I UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES OF START UPS, STAFFING, MARKETING, CUSTOMER SERVICE, NAVIGATING CHALLENGING REGULATIONS AND DEALING WITH LOCAL BEUROCRACIES THAT DO MORE TO HINDER YOUR WORK THAN HELP IT.

I HAVE DEDICATED MY CIVIC LIFE TO ADVANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED OR PUSHED ASIDE BY THE SYSTEM. I HAVE WORKED FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING, NEIGHBORHOOD CULTURAL PROGRAMS, AND HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR MANY SOCIAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGNS AND ORGANIZATIONS. I CURRENTLY TEACH CLASSES ON LEADERHSIP AND CIVICS AT THE ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND DEPAUL UNIVERISTY.

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR QUALIFIED OUTSIDERS – FOR PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES WHO ARE NOT AT THE TABLE RIGHT NOW – THEN I WILL ARGUE THAT I AM THE BEST

PERSON TO BRING YOUR CONCERNS AND REDRESS THE
IMBALANCES AMONG THE CANDIDATES SEEKING THIS OFFICE.
I HAVE CHALLENGED THE DALEY-STROGER MACHINE FOR YEARS
AND RECENTLY WORKED AGAINST ITS MOST MOMENTOUS PROJECT -
BRINGING THE 2016 OLYMPICS TO CHICAGO – WHICH I BELIEVE
WOULD’VE BANKRUPTED THE REGION AND COST YOU ALL TENS OF
THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN NEW TAXES. I AM SOMEONE WHO IS
UN-BOSSED AND UN-BOUGHT AND MY CAMPAIGN WILL NOT TAKE
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ORGANIZATIONS OR CORPORATIONS. YOU
MUST CONTRAST THIS FUNDAMENTAL STANCE AGAINST MY
OPPONENTS WHO ARE ALL CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH.
PATRONAGE, INCOMPETENCE AND INSIDER DEALING ARE ALL
HALLMARKS OF THE DALEY-STROGER MACHINE AND THEY ARE
THE ENEMIES OF TRUE OPPORTUNITY.
MY CAMPAIGN REPRESENTS REAL CHANGE AND REAL OPPORTUNITY
FOR BRINGING NEW FACES TO ALL LEVELS OF COOK COUNTY
GOVERNMENT AND PULLING UP SOME NEW CHAIRS AT THE
DECISION-MAKING TABLE.

ONCE AGAIN, I WANT TO THANK THE LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERS OF THE HISPANIC AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION FOR THE CHANCE TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU THIS EVENING.

IN CONCLUSION I'D LIKE TO SHARE SOME HEADLINES WITH YOU.

FROM TODAY'S SUN-TIMES – “CITY TAKEN TO COURT BY ITS OWN WATCHDOG OVER '06 CONTRACT” – OTHER RECENT HEADLINES...

“DEALS KEEP SEWAGE BOSS FLUSH – O'BRIEN COMPANIES MADE MILLIONS FROM GOVERNMENT”

“INDICTMENT AGAINST SIEMENS MEDICAL SOLUTIONS”

“DUFF FAMILY PAL SENTENCED – FORMER MANAGER HID FROM CITY THAT FIRM WASN'T RUN BY WOMAN”

“MAJOR CITY CONTRACTOR CHARGED – CASTLE CONSTRUCTION ACCUSED OF FAILING TO GIVE MINORITY SUBCONTRACTORS FAIR SHARE OF BUSINESS”

“COUNTY HIRES FIRM EMPLOYING DALEY NEPHEW”

“CLERK'S STAFF BANKROLLS PARTY”

“DORTOHY BROWN SAYS SHE WON'T TAKE CASH FROM COUNTY EMPLOYEES – SAYS SEES NOTHING WRONG WITH THE GIFTS BUT STOPS IT WHEN TRIBUNE ASKS”

“PUBLIC DEFENDER SAYS STROGER GAVE ME UNQUALIFIED WOKERS”

“STROGER FIRES COUSIN OVER HIRING SCANDAL”

“COUNTY AIDE SUSPENDED IN PROBE OF CONTRACTS
AND FINALLY, “PATRONAGE THRIVING, COUNTY TOLD”
U.S. ATTORNEY PATRICK FITZGERALD HAS SAID “SHAM JOINT
VENTURES DEPRIVE LEGITIMATE MINORITY BUSINESSES OF A LEVEL
PLAYING FIELD IN SEEKING CONTRACTS. WHEN INDIVIDUALS OR
COMPANIES COMPETE FOR PUBLIC CONTRACTS, THEY MUST BE
HONEST ABOUT DESCRIBING WHETHER THE MINORITY
PARTICIPATION IS REAL AND NOT ENTER INTO SECRET SIDE
AGREEMENTS.” I WOULD ADD THAT THOSE MAKING THE PURCHASE
DECISIONS MUST BE MOTIVATED BY A TRUE DESIRE TO SERVE THE
PUBLIC AND NOT BY GREED TO LINE THEIR OWN POCKETS. THEY
MUST SEEK THE BEST QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS – AND NOT STEER
BUSINESS TO CRONIES, RELATIVES AND OTHER INSIDERS. BECAUSE
I’M THE GUY NOBODY SENT – BECAUSE I HAVE NO EXPERIENCE IN
HIRING MY COUSIN, NEPHEW, SON, BROTHER OR BUSINESS PARTNER
FOR PUBLIC WORK – BECAUSE I WILL REMAIN UN-BOUGHT AND UN-
BOSSSED I WILL BE YOUR BEST BET FOR REAL AND LASTING
OPPORTUNIES INSIDE THE COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT.
MY FRIENDS, SOMEONE ONCE DEFINED INSANITY AS DOING THE
SAME THING OVER AND OVER AGAIN BUT EXPECTING A DIFFERENT
OUTCOME.

YOU ALL LOOK TO ME AS BEING EMINENTLY SANE. SO I REQUEST
YOUR ENDORSEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT OF THE
COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. THANK YOU!

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