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The Day After

1 message

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I slept on it.

You know when you're not sure if you should do something, because you don't know what kind of blowback you'll get, you're told to sleep on it.

I've worked hard for a few years now to "play team ball." I believe in that saying. A lot of the time that means not airing the dirty laundry. Keeping it in the family. I still believe that's beneficial.

But, yesterday, one of my best friends in politics stepped down. And, it helps those who worked for his demise for me to keep it quiet. And, I don't want to do anything to aid them.

Mark Root has sat on the County Council for nearly 20 years. I met him at the very cusp of my reinvolvement in politics -- when Covid prompted me to stop being solely a full-time mom, but an activist against the lockdowns in our county and in our state. Quick networking got me to Mark. Which is ironic, because he is a quiet guy and often hard to reach. But, he viewed the Covid threat like I did -- serious government overreach that grabbed at our American liberties -- that threatened our entire framework of freedom. For Mark and me, it wasn't just a mask. For Mark and me, we saw it as the ushering in of a dictatorship. So, for months, we worked together. Him in the minority on the Council. Me from my house. To try and muster whatever support we could to battle the health department under the regime of Dr. Bob Einterz -- who made St. Joseph County the first county to install a mask mandate after Gov. Holcomb released us from the first phase of Covid lockdown. It was exhausting. It was war. Even Mark's two fellow Republicans on the council were not with us. In the end, Mark and I developed a grassroots group, this "unmask" list. This group, at its finest, and still small in number at that time, delivered more phone calls to County Council representatives than then-President Rafael Morton had ever experienced in his long tenure on the council. We created delays. We created push-back. We kept Einterz on defense. And, after three long years, we finally created enough of a challenge to him that he resigned. Part of the reason he resigned was because in the meantime, I ran for office and was part of the Republican sweep that switched

the council from Democrat to Republican for the first time in history. Einterz absolutely hated the GOP. Many good candidates and behind-the scenes players contributed to that red wave, but if I hadn't won my swing seat (46% Republican, 54% Democrat) -- we wouldn't have taken control of the Council. As the Dems are fond of saying, I won that seat by just 35 votes. And, Mark Root helped lay the framework for me winning that seat, with all his contributions to the redistricting effort. Mark is a behind the scenes kind of guy -- but what he brings to the table is strategy and smarts. The morning after the election results came in -- and we realized the GOP won the council -- I called up Mark, the longest serving Republican on the council -- and I said, "Good Morning, Mr. President." And, indeed, Mark became our first council president.

It seemed like things couldn't get better. We had a roster of actual conservative council members. I had an agenda in my head from day 1 of things I wanted to get done that were actually possible with a majority, and for the most part, the five of us on the council were in agreement on policy. We all had different strengths, some of us more vocal; some better with numbers; some more approachable; some better with questioning. But, the key was that we were united in our direction, in principle. At least for conservatives, we felt like a dream team. And Mark, though not the kind of glad-handing politician that some expected him to be as president, was perfect for me. He wasn't a micromanager. He wasn't an attention seeker. He encouraged and supported our individual efforts; kept us focused on pressing needs; acted as an institutional knowledge hub; worked to keep civility in the background between the R's and D's on the council (imperative with a slim majority); led us smoothly through a budget process with our Democratic counterparts; and was a super parliamentarian. He complemented us beautifully.

Yet, behind the scenes, Mark was under attack. A few powerful people didn't like him. A laundry list of past offenses was involved. So were some bruised egos. They were obsessed with his downfall. And so, for almost a year, we have heard that Mark would be primaried. We heard half-truth rumors circulate about him. We combatted constant personal attacks against him. We heard about elaborate plans being concocted for them to find a primary opponent to destroy him.

I will say here that Mark -- like all of us -- has weaknesses, that's true. We all do. In the end, however, Mark stood by this party for years; helped us usher in a Republican majority; earned us conservative wins; and is frankly, just a good Christian man, husband and father. In the end, it didn't matter that he was a good Republican, a good conservative. It didn't matter that he had an actual voting record to back him up. It mattered that some people with power made it a goal to take him out.

Mark withdrew from the race yesterday. Those who wanted him gone rejoiced. I will be supporting County Council candidate Andy Rutten in his place.

Load images for info below on upcoming events. Note that Tony Hazen's even is moved to Riverside Terrace.

If you receive unmasktyranny on a forward, you can subscribe at althoffamy@yahoo.com.

If you want to contribute to my ongoing fundraising account, you can do so at votteamydrake/contribute. You can even set up payment to give monthly.





HAZEN
County Commissioner
District 3
Paid for by The Committee to Elect Tony Hazen

HAZEN 4 COMMISSIONER
PRESIDENTS DAY
 ★ FUNDRAISER ★

Thursday, February 22nd
5:30 - 7:30pm

Location- Jesus Latin Grill
122 N Hill St, Mishawaka, IN

TONY HAZEN
INVITES YOU!

Sponsorship Levels:

Reagan Sponsor	\$5000
Lincoln Sponsor	\$2500
Roosevelt Sponsor	\$1000

Location

Jesus Latin Grill
122 N Hill St,
Mishawaka



Day & Time

Thursday
February 22nd
5:30 - 7:30pm




Heavy Hors d'oeuvres
Cash Bar & Event is 21+

\$100/ Person or \$150/ Couple



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HAZEN
County Commissioner
District 3
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Visit for more information
Hazen4Commissioner.com

Please make checks payable to:
The Committee to Elect Tony Hazen
Address: P.O. Box 323, Osceola, IN. 46561
RSVP: Events@Hazen4Commissioner.com

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Friends of Tom McCormick invite you to an all-you-can-eat dinner at Leo's Family Restaurant in Lakeville. Fried chicken or meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner roll, dessert and coffee/soft drinks. \$50/person or \$75/couple.

McCormick4Commissioner



See you there!

Thursday, February 29th
4:30-7pm

Leo's Family Restaurant
410 Motts Alley
Lakeville, IN 46536

Make checks payable to:
Friends of Tom McCormick

McCormick4Commissioner.com
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MEET AND GREET WITH **Eric Doden**

REPUBLICAN FOR GOVERNOR

AND THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY REPUBLICANS

Wednesday, February 28th
6:00 PM

Fanellos Authentic Italian
112 N. Center St.
Mishawaka, IN

Questions may be directed to:

TA Kitzler, (317) 827-9678 or political@dodenforindiana.com

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