

"Change and Hope," they gave the company's CEO, Barack Obama, a friendly legislative boardroom composed of a majority in the Senate and House.

CEO Obama has already placed a disclaimer on delivery, saying it will take more than four years to accomplish the change promised. The voters did not vote for a disclaimer, they voted for delivery.

Should the company of "Change and Hope" and boardroom prove to be a poor performer, or the cost of the change not to be worth the cost of delivery, in two years the voters will dump part of their stock in "Change and Hope." They will sell their stock in the boardroom, voting out Democrats in the Senate and the House of Representatives, and in 2012 replace the CEO of "Change and Hope," reinvesting in the GOP, buying stock in a new governmental management company, headed by the present CEO of the state of Alaska.

**Bill Smith
Rocky River**

Residents not an angry mob

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to the Jack Edwardson letter to the editor of the West Life Newspaper, dated Nov. 5. To set the record straight, I know Dean McKay and his wife, Margaret. I would say we are good friends. When I sought the Ward 4 council seat, I had an opponent. Yes, I was appointed in September of 2005 to fulfill the balance of the 2005 term of Dean McKay. McKay did not vote on my appointment to his council seat. I was elected to represent the residents of Ward 4.

I volunteered on the Planning Commission as chairman and vice-chairman for close to five years in the early and mid '90s. We addressed Wal-Mart on two sites and reviewed plans for two years. Wal-Mart was a controversial issue. I am proud to have been part of the movement to create mounding with natural plantings as a buffer between residential and commercial properties. This was a far cry from the former idea that cyclone fence was an adequate buffer. To this day, I still

volunteer my time and skills for many projects.

As the Ward 4 councilman I take great umbrage with your ignorant statement calling the residents of Ward 4 an angry mob. These are residents concerned with the spot zoning of one group of parcels for one developer, which may irreparably alter an entire neighborhood in Ward 4. The purchase of a home is usually the largest investment the average American makes in a lifetime. I doubt that you can comprehend the changes and problems, that may occur if the rezoning for one development takes place. I plan on representing the interests of my residents this term and in my next term as Ward 4 councilman.

**Lawrence R. Orlowski
Councilman Ward 4
North Olmsted**

Residents got deaf ear

To the Editor:

As a 34-year resident of Butternut Ridge in North Olmsted, I feel compelled to reply to Jack Edwardson's letter published in the Nov. 5 edition of West Life deriding former councilman Dean McKay and current councilman Larry Orlowski.

McKay was assailed because of his previous letter to the editor that questioned how a North Olmsted Planning and Design Commission member, Ms. Meredith, could accuse the state senate of not listening to the people regarding public smoking bans when she herself ignored the citizens of North Olmsted who were opposed to rezoning a portion of Butternut Ridge.

The numerous meetings over many months that were held by the Planning and Design Commission to review this particular proposal included public input. At each meeting when public input was permitted, a significant number of residents voiced concerns regarding the negative impact this rezoning proposal

gratitude as well as a big round of applause for a job well done this year. If they hadn't done their jobs properly, we'd again be hearing about the voting problems in Cuyahoga County.

Instead, we only need to say we made our votes count this year.

would have on both their neighborhood and their property values. The large number of residents in attendance at these meetings behaved responsibly, and they were not an "angry mob" as referred to by Edwardson. Throughout this process Councilman Orlowski was an ongoing voice for the interests of these residents whom he serves. During all of these meetings no resident spoke in favor of this rezoning proposal. Despite overwhelming and unanimous opposition by the residents, the commission saw fit to pass this proposal by a 5-2 vote. This action clearly indicates that a majority of the commission, including Ms. Meredith, turned a deaf ear to the concerns of the residents.

Edwardson also stated that he was ashamed of McKay's attacks on a volunteer like Ms. Meredith. I too am ashamed, Edwardson, but not of McKay. He served his constituents admirably for many years. I am, however, ashamed to see what this commission has become, since I also served as a "volunteer" on the North Olmsted Planning Commission from 1978 to 1994. During my tenure, I am proud to say that we totally listened to the residents and always put their interest first, after all these were the people that we were sworn to serve.

Elected or appointed officials who disregard the legitimate concerns of their constituents leave themselves open to criticism, and we as citizens have an obligation to question both their decisions and the motives behind those decisions.

**Brian Gorris
North Olmsted**

WESTLIFE 11/2/08 p 8