

Tax revolt

letters to the editor

*Les Barta
Incline Village
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Shortly after the Supreme Court issued its decision granting relief to Incline / Crystal Bay taxpayers, I went to have a visit with our new County Assessor, Josh Wilson.

Josh seemed like a very nice young man.

I told Josh that I was aware of the enormous amount of pressure from the County Commission and the D.A. upon the Assessor to come up with some way to rescue the county from the financial impact of a big tax refund. I advised Josh not to let his administration be scarred by controversy like his predecessor, but to accept reality, and start his tenure as assessor on a fresh, constructive note.

Apparently Josh did not listen. Instead of honoring the Supreme Court's decision and providing the justice for IV / CB taxpayers that was ordered by the Court, Josh and the county are pursuing a reckless and dangerous course. Their latest scheme, in effect, is to try and appeal the Supreme Court's decision to the State Board of Equalization!!

The county is desperate to avoid paying back the tax money it has illegally taken from us. Josh is now claiming that he wants "to do what's fair and equitable for all" the taxpayers of Washoe County." This is really just Washoe County jargon for, "we want to keep the money."

All of us would love to see truly equal treatment throughout the county and the whole state. Yet, IV/CB taxpayers have had to endure inequality, unconstitutional assessments, and excess taxes for years. It is unfortunate that county and state taxation officials did not see fit to correct this problem long ago. Now, however, it is time to relieve the burden of IV/CB taxpayers, and the Supreme Court has granted the only reasonable relief that the law allows for these circumstances.

I have heard from a number of individuals and other authorities. Everyone thought that based on the Supreme Court's decision, this controversy was over. Many of us are shocked at the remarks about the Supreme Court we have heard from the tax commission and the assessor's office, among others. Everyone is astounded at the tactics of Washoe County and state tax officials, and incredulous about the effort to ignore the Supreme Court and avoid refunding the illegal taxes.

So here is my renewed message to Josh and the Washoe County gang, as well as their state taxation cronies: stop your illegal activities now! Honor the Supreme Court decision. Refund the illegal taxes. Put your energy into a constructive effort to promote justice going forward.

*Les Barta
Incline Village resident*

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