

Behind The City Scene



**Charles "Charlie" Richardson
Council Member
Ward IV**

Before returning to regular updates on our City and neighborhood issues, I need to clearly correct an inadvertent impression I created in the last column. It does not take contributions in the range of \$50,000 dollars to be a successful candidate in a Council race as I will dramatically demonstrate below. The optional decision to hire a professional political manager has PRO's and CON'S. You tend to raise more money because you are under constant intense pressure to fundraise and walk EVERYDAY! Most importantly is the need to pay for their professional services. In my case the fee was \$19,000. I collected \$50,834.

Now the most notable exception is the election of an At-Large meaning city-wide, candidate: Angela Lawson. She received \$1,769 in contributions and that is not a typo. Not included is help provided to all candidates by independent supporters/sources e.g. unions, endorsement by Aurora Sentinel, associations, volunteers handing out brochures and signs, etc. This is very impressive! Look to have Ms. Lawson continue to be active in the Aurora political scene. Her opponent an incumbent, who lost, received \$22,286. The rest of the field of winners are Bergen (Ward 6) \$26,625, LeGare (At-Large) \$34,581, Roth (Ward 5) 42,610, and Mayor Hogan \$102,365. Hard work and enthusiasm can overcome any amount of contributions! My figures here are very unofficial and math is not my strong suit.

We continue to have a schism on City Council over our City Manager. Nevertheless, if you watch on Comcast 8 or attend Council Meetings, you can see that in many instances the votes transcend the underlying schism. Because of my background I have a head start over the other two new Council Members. The good/bad news is that I tend to challenge established policies and protocols to the chagrin of some Council Members who respond, "But that is the way we have always done it!" Next month I will talk about traffic enforcement and what I can and cannot do to help.

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2016 Ward IV Town Meetings — held on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at EcoTech Institute, 1400 S. Abilene St., unless otherwise noted.