

From: Eavesdropper [eavesdropper@fultoncountyga.gov]

Sent: Friday, July 23, 2010 6:07 PM

To: Story, Erika

Subject: Chairman Eaves' Response to Creative Loafing July 15 Article

July 23, 2010

Ms. Mara Shalhoup
Editor-in-Chief
Creative Loafing
384 Northyards Blvd, Suite 600
Atlanta, GA 30313-2454

Dear Ms. Shalhoup:

I am writing to express my concerns about the July 15 piece in your publication regarding the Fulton County Board of Commissioners ("Reforming the Fulton County Commission will take more than good intent," by Scott Henry). I consider this piece an attack on my colleagues and I am compelled to respond.

Fulton County is a diverse community on many levels. The members of the Board of Commissioners individually represent the complex interests of their respective constituencies. At times, there are differences of opinion about what is best for the residents of our county – and those differences are sometimes reflected by our Commissioners.

In conversation at the General Assembly regarding the governance of Fulton County, there have been no proposals to require term limits. Until such limits are proposed and imposed, our Commissioners have chosen to seek re-election and continue to serve our residents. Similarly, voters have demonstrated confidence and trust in the elected Commissioners, and have continued to re-elect them. The benefit of that stability is a well-run county with an outstanding record of financial performance and service delivery.

Mr. Henry's article did not mention that Fulton County has not raised its millage rate in a decade, nor that we have the highest possible bond rating. He did not mention that the Board of Commissioners' policy actions have ensured that the County has adequate reserves – even in times of economic stress in the region. He did not mention that we serve more residents than any jurisdiction in the state – more than 200,000 more people than the next largest County – in coordination with 14 cities. He did not mention the innovative and efficient programming that the County offers in areas of human services, justice, or health services, nor that we are the state's largest supporter of arts and cultural institutions. Those facts apparently did not support Mr. Henry's convenient and erroneous notions regarding our government.

In summary, I am disappointed and disgusted that the broad brush with which Mr. Henry caricatured our board reinforced long standing and inaccurate clichés – when you had an opportunity to really educate and inform your readers.

I hope that future coverage of Fulton County can more accurately represent the facts.

Sincerely,

John H. Eaves, Ph.D.
Chairman, Fulton County Board of Commissioners