RECEIVED J-03a
DEC 0 9 2005
CITY OF TROY
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

John Szerlag
City of Troy Manager
500 West Big Beaver
Troy, Michigan 48084

December 5, 2005

Dear Mr. Szerlag.

In recent weeks the media has had a great deal of discussion about the elections held in November. In neighboring communities there were many discrepancies, late results, accusations of fraud and a decision to have a recount. We in Troy may be taking for granted the level of excellence with which our elections are run. This seemed like an appropriate time to express my admiration for the extremely high professionalism and dedication exhibited in the City Clerk's Office in the city of Troy. City Clerk, Tonni Bartholomew and Deputy Clerk, Barbara Holmes are exceptional employees by all standards. I have worked the elections for our city for 17 years and have worked in other cities. From that experience I can tell you that no election administration currently compares to the city of Troy's in quality, legality, proficiency and dedication. No voter is disenfranchised in the process. The correct procedures are repeatedly and consistently drilled into the precinct workers through regular training sessions. By invitation from Mrs. Bartholomew the precinct chairmen all received sensitivity training from the Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc. Recently Barbara Holmes composed an individual section in the instruction manual to address considerations for persons with disabilities. A number of aids are included in all precinct supply boxes to assist voters with disabilities. Mrs. Bartholomew leads the chorus and the parade for those of us who desire complete inclusion in the voting process.

The behind the scenes frustration and stress involved in the election process is substantial. Mrs. Bartholomew and Ms. Holmes meet and exceed the challenge. The instruction manuals, supplies and materials that are given to the precinct chairmen are exceptional. I can't say enough good things about these ladies and their staff. We in the city of Troy are very fortunate to have the benefit of their talents and dedication to the voting process.

Sincerely,

Susan Werpetinski

Susan Werpetinski

c: T. Bartholomew
B. Holmes
J. Lamerato