

Tonni L, Bartholomew, MMC
City Clerk City of Troy
500 West Big Beaver
Troy, Michigan 48084
July 19, 2006

Dear Ms. Bartholomew,

I wish to commend you and Barbara Holmes, Deputy City Clerk, and your entire staff for the extraordinary efforts you have put forth in implementing the Help America Vote Act, "Ensuring Access to the Vote for Every American". I realize that this is an extremely busy time in the office of the City Clerk as preparations are underway for the election on August 8, 2006. The new AutoMARK equipment adds a new dimension to the training and the individual precinct setups. Many details go into the careful planning of a "clean" election process that serves the voting public.

During this demanding time you had the foresight and professionalism to address the sensitivity issues involved in introducing the new AutoMARK equipment to citizens of different abilities. For your election workers, you secured expert sensitivity training through the Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc. When I spoke with their representative, Troy was the only community that had requested this training. Additionally, you had the smart idea to video tape the presentation which allows a greater opportunity to share this expertise with future audiences. It is important to take note of the fact that you have now given sensitivity training to approximately 180 election workers. That is an amazing statistic because we all know that the education you provided will be witnessed by other members of the community. Kudos to you and your staff.

In city government there is always an effort to make the citizens aware of the services and opportunities available to them. You contacted the City of Troy Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities and invited the members to give their input, suggestions, or efforts toward the successful introduction of the new AutoMARK equipment. You invited the members to take part in the video taped sensitivity training which allowed the committee to identify and introduce itself. In order to serve the community of Troy, the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities needs to let the citizens know that it is in place. You have served to advance that awareness. Furthermore, when a newspaper reporter came to your office to get information about the AutoMARK equipment, you graciously shared this media opportunity and suggested that the reporter contact our membership. I am extremely grateful for all that you and your staff have done to advance our advocacy for members in the community with different abilities.

We are all trying to best serve the City of Troy, but sometimes the responsibilities of each of the parts obscures the body as a whole. You are to be applauded and commended for seeing the "whole" and networking with the Advisory Committee to bring about the best result for the Troy community.

The City of Troy has always been proactive in considering the challenges that might face members in our city. Your cooperative efforts leading up to the August election is another step toward the vision of complete inclusion and access. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Susan Werpetsinski
Member of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

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