

> On [REDACTED] 2011 at [REDACTED], Paul Sturtz <[paulsturtz1@gmail.com](mailto:paulsturtz1@gmail.com)> wrote:  
> > Hi [REDACTED],  
> >  
> > I'm in my last couple of weeks as a Council member, and so with a  
> > new city manager selected (I think Mike is going to be a tremendous  
> > asset), my thoughts are turning to who is going to represent our  
> > neighborhoods and our city.  
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> > I'm not making any big public pronouncements, but between you and  
> > me, I'm voting for Fred Schmidt.  
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> > Fred is a thoughtful, kind, and dedicated man who truly wants to  
> > serve the First Ward. He serves no special interests. He  
  
> > epitomizes what is best about the First Ward--he bikes everywhere,  
> > he works downtown in his own small accounting business, he lives  
> > modestly on West Ash, and he's been active in neighborhood  
> > associations, PedNet, MO Bicycle Federation, Fun City, and many  
> > other civic efforts. He's passionate about rehab housing and infill  
> > development--not sprawl--and about modifying existing zoning  
> > regulations to better accommodate infill. He knows more about  
> > transportation planning than most people on the city staff. He wants  
> > to see better and more diversified transportation alternatives for  
> > the central city. He wants to help bring together existing  
> > resources for a one-stop-shop approach for job training, housing, and  
> > transportation in the First Ward. But he needs your vote.  
> >  
> > I'm going to guess this is a neck-and-neck race with Mitch Richards.  
> > I've met Mitch a few times and he impresses me as a bright person  
> > with a passion for civil liberties, which I really appreciate. But  
> > as a self-proclaimed Libertarian, he believes that City government  
> > has no role in limiting or regulating development. As you can  
> > imagine, that's attracted some money and help from developer types.  
> > They've paid for his yard signs, advertised his fundraiser, delivered  
> > supporters, and raised the stakes in his campaign.  
> > They likewise persuaded Almeta to endorse Mitch.  
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> > I am proud of what we've accomplished the last few years from  
> > instituting comprehensive planning to starting our still-young  
> > Citizen Review Board to encouraging energy efficiency to hiring a  
> > sustainability director, but many of these projects would not have  
> > started with a hands-off City Council. With the Council at a tipping  
> > point, I can't see how the First Ward will be well served by a  
> > Councilman who fundamentally does not believe in a role for city government  
> > in determining where and how Columbia grows.  
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> > I would like to leave the City Council in April, knowing that the  
> > best interests of the First Ward are being served. If that's your  
> > goal as well, I'd urge you to vote for Fred Schmidt on April 5.  
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> > With my best,  
> >  
> > Paul