

September 6, 2001

OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR PLUSQUELLIC AND CITY COUNCIL

Don Plusquellic
Mayor
City of Akron
Akron, Ohio

Dear Mayor Plusquellic,

Today, a day before the deadline for ballot issue certification, we make an emergency appeal to you and members of City Council to immediately revoke your mean-spirited action of August 29 at the Special Council, which called for a tax hike, allegedly to fund the Clean Money law. As you well know, such a tax hike is not only unnecessary, but, the Clean Money Charter Amendment, proposed by a citizens petition initiative, explicitly outlaws any tax hike to fund full public financing of municipal campaigns. We urge you to reconsider your action and respect the will of the petitioners in placing this important issue on the ballot.

Though we are all aware of the intended victim of your short-sighted action, the unintended victim will likely be the school levy for Akron Public Schools. Your action will, as intended, heighten an anti-tax sentiment among Akron voters. There is every reason to believe that this anti-tax sentiment, aroused by your self-serving action to unfairly defeat Clean Money, will cause the school levy to loose thousands, if not tens of thousands of votes, in the November election.

In this fall season, do not make the public school children a political football. They need high quality education and good, well-funded public schools. No one needs the tax hike you propose. Remove it today. Tomorrow will be too late. Do it, if for no other reason, for the sake of Akron's public schools.

Sincerely,

Chris Hazen
Coordinator

Greg Coleridge
NE Ohio Office

Rev. Werner Lange
United Church of Christ

Akron Clean Money Campaign American Friends Service Committee