

## **American Friends Service Committee**

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## **8 REASONS TO HATE 8**

*Eighth in a series*

<http://www.afsc.net/ctsosaw.html>

### **Corporations driving sewer lease**

Who's driving the plan to lease Akron's sewer system?

It's not the citizens of Akron. No community hearing was ever held. No public hearing before city council was ever called. No grassroots groundswell ever emerged demanding to sell or lease the public utility to a business corporation.

It's not the Mayor's hand picked Advisory Committee. They were charged with taking months to study and make a recommendation. Instead, the group met only three times with the Mayor pushing through a rushed, vague, outline of a concept containing virtually no details.

The Morgan Stanley banking corporation has been a driving force behind this idea. They are the Mayor's financial advisor, according to the September 10 issue of Bond Buyer, the daily newspaper of public finance. They were also very involved in running at least one of the Advisory Committee meetings. One of the Advisory groups meetings was on Morgan Stanley banking corporation letterhead, which can be downloaded at [www.akronohio.net](http://www.akronohio.net) (scroll down main page to link).

Morgan Stanley is the same Wall Street financial outfit that nearly collapsed by acquiring toxic home mortgages and engaging in other speculative investments that our tax dollars are now paying for. Morgan Stanley got into trouble trying to make a quick buck buying and selling bad mortgages.

Is there also a water/sewer corporation also driving the Mayor's plan? With many communities and countries kicking water corporations out and re-municipalizing water systems, many transnational corporations

are looking elsewhere.

Mayor Plusquellic sits on the US Council of Mayors Water Council  
<http://www.usmayors.org/urbanwater/membership.asp>

In addition to the two dozen Mayors listed as members are four additional "Full Members:" American Water corporation, United Water corporation, Veolia Water North America corporation, and CH2M Hill – OMI, a water and wastewater system management corporation. Several additional water corporations are listed as "Associated Members."

The Mayors Water Council's purpose is, in part, to "provide a forum to assist local government in exploring competition and public-private partnership approaches, and alternative methods of financing water infrastructure development."

<http://www.usmayors.org/urbanwater/about.asp>

Translated, this means to privatize water and sewer systems.

Have the "Full Members" of the Mayors Water Council been bending the Mayor's ear? He called at first for a full-fledged sale of the Akron sewer system that would have shifted more control than a lease to a corporation.

Citizens of Akron, not Morgan Stanley bank or water/sewer corporations, should be setting the agenda for what happens to public utilities in Akron. Akron citizens can keep public utilities public this November by voting against Issue 8 and for Issue 9.

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