

01945

Date: 9/20/05

City of Madison Registration Statement - Common Council

You must register before the Council considers your item.

Please Print

Agenda No. <u>7</u>

Name MICHAEL JACOB
 Address 410 RUSSELL ST
MADISON WI 53704

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- Support**
- Wish to speak
 - Do not wish to speak
 - Available to answer questions

- Oppose**
- Wish to speak
 - Do not wish to speak
 - Available to answer questions

At this meeting are you representing an organization or a person other than yourself: Yes No
(If you answered "no," STOP; you need not complete the rest of this form. If you answered "yes," go on to the next question.)

Name, address and telephone number of each person or organization you are representing:

PROGRESSIVE DANE POLICY COMMITTEE
1202 WILLY ST
MADISON WI 53703 257-4985

Are you being paid for your representation? Yes No

Are you appearing as part of your other paid duties for this person or organization? Yes No
(If you answered "no," STOP; you need not complete the rest of this form. If you answered "yes," go on to the next question.)

Speaking Limits: Public Hearing 5 minutes
 Information Hearing 5 minutes
 Other Items 3 minutes

(See Back)

Registration Statement - Page 2

Are you an elected official who is appearing solely on behalf of your office or for your municipality or other governmental body? Yes No

*(If you answered "yes" to the question, **STOP**. You need not complete the rest of this form, except that you must sign this form. If you answered "no" to the question, go on to the next question.)*

If you are being paid for your representation, or if your appearance is part of other paid duties, do you understand that:

1. Before you engage in lobbying as a lobbyist, you or your principal must file an authorization with the City Clerk? Yes No
2. Your principal is not permitted to authorize you to lobby unless the principal is registered with the City Clerk? Yes No
3. If your principal spends or will owe more than \$500 for lobbying services in any reporting period (calendar quarter), the principal must file expense statements with the City Clerk for the remaining quarters of the calendar year? Yes No

(If you answered "no" to any of the last three questions, please call the City Clerk at 266-4601 or go to the Clerk's Office at Room 103 of the City-County Building, Madison, for more information.)

Date _____

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Date: _____

City of Madison Registration Statement - Common Council

You must register before the Council considers your item.

Please Print

PRINT NAME CLEARLY

Agenda No. <u>7</u>

Name Michael Neuman

Address 4334 Waite Circle

for Susan De Vos
626 Gately Terrace

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- Support**
- Wish to speak
 - Do not wish to speak
 - Available to answer questions

**DO NOT
WISH
TO SP**

- Oppose**
- Wish to speak
 - Do not wish to speak
 - Available to answer questions

At this meeting are you representing an organization or a person other than yourself: Yes No
(If you answered "no," **STOP**; you need not complete the rest of this form. If you answered "yes," go on to the next question.)

Name, address and telephone number of each person or organization you are representing:

Susan De Vos, 626 Gately Terrace
238-9888

Madison Area Bus Advocates Alliance

Are you being paid for your representation? Yes No

Are you appearing as part of your other paid duties for this person or organization? Yes No
(If you answered "no," **STOP**; you need not complete the rest of this form. If you answered "yes," go on to the next question.)

Speaking Limits:

Public Hearing	5 minutes
Information Hearing	5 minutes
Other Items	3 minutes

(See Back)

Registration Statement - Page 2

Are you an elected official who is appearing solely on behalf of your office or for your municipality or other governmental body? Yes No

*(If you answered "yes" to the question, **STOP**. You need not complete the rest of this form, except that you must sign this form. If you answered "no" to the question, go on to the next question.)*

If you are being paid for your representation, or if your appearance is part of other paid duties, do you understand that:

1. Before you engage in lobbying as a lobbyist, you or your principal must file an authorization with the City Clerk? Yes No
2. Your principal is not permitted to authorize you to lobby unless the principal is registered with the City Clerk? Yes No
3. If your principal spends or will owe more than \$500 for lobbying services in any reporting period (calendar quarter), the principal must file expense statements with the City Clerk for the remaining quarters of the calendar year? Yes No

(If you answered "no" to any of the last three questions, please call the City Clerk at 266-4601 or go to the Clerk's Office at Room 103 of the City-County Building, Madison, for more information.)

Date _____

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Comments for Testimony

In my five minutes, rather than tackling the entire capital budget, I will focus on one aspect that has many ramifications—**transportation**. Society in general has grossly subsidized automobile traffic while undercutting alternatives such as bicycling, walking, or riding the bus. Despite his supposed credentials as an environmentalist concerned about low income people, the budget and policies of this Mayor follow the course of encouraging car use even as he wants to blame the State and Federal governments for what he is doing. Let's show some imagination here. For instance, if he wanted, he could show that Madison is committed to a different set of priorities, that a Fit City puts its money where its mouth is by better funding the bus and making car use less preferred than other transportation modes. After all, our air quality as well as other things depends on it, ultimately with serious health and economic ramifications. My main focus here is on the amount that is required to keep the bus service at the inadequate level it is at presently, a gap of perhaps a million and a half dollars. Keep that amount in perspective as various allocations are discussed.

Perhaps the most obvious one is the mid State St. Parking structure. My limited exposure to behind-the-scenes City work leads me to believe that the citizen group dealing with the issue rejected the notion of a structure. The Mayor decided to have one anyway, and is now budgeting one in against other people's wishes, and **supposedly** "responsibly" putting us in debt to do so. We have a price tag of \$11.5 million.

Then there is something called Capitol Square Bus Shelter Replacement to the tune of \$300,000, which is related to the fact that parking was put on the square to the detriment of bicycles and buses. Now, we are supposed to prefer, and I quote, "the replacement of the seven existing bus shelters around the Capitol Concourse with four new shelters. Three of the existing shelters will be replaced with benches, planters and other amenities." at the expense of cutting bus service because of insufficient funds. Also, most bus riders would prefer shelters from wind, rain and snow, to benches, planters and other amenities.

Whenever I've asked for a shelter at my stop, I am of course told that there are no funds for that. Yet, have you noticed that with the redesign of State St. perfectly good bus shelters were torn down and replaced by fancy new and expensive ones? Whose priorities are setting how money is being spent? Certainly not bus riders. But of course, this is **supposedly** responsible budgeting.

The most egregious spending that is too opaque for me to make a stab at specifics although that is unnecessary, is that of engineering and street projects. We are talking millions of dollars here folks, and hundreds of thousands get tossed around with relative ease. I can say that it felt surreal to sit in a recent Ped/Bike/Motor Vehicle Commission meeting in which the City Engineer was outlining major road projects with astronomical costs even as the bus system was desperately asking the Transit and Parking Commission to raise user fees to cover perhaps half a million dollars. And we'll be hearing more about funding for buses in the Operating Budget.

Lastly a comment about the astronomical cost of fuel. I wanted to attend one of the Mayor's budget forums that dealt with that issue among other things. But guess what? I use the bus while the meetings were set up for car drivers on the outskirts of town. Maybe that's the loudest statement the Mayor could make about his real transportation priorities and concern about fuel.

Susan De Vos
Madison Area Bus Advocates Alliance
626 Gately Terrace
238-9888
mabaa@tds.net