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Local group calls for protection order reform

At the August 5 County Commissioners Meeting, representatives of Daddy Justice, a local organization committed to promoting the custody rights of fathers, exhorted the Commissioners to reconsider the County's existing policies regarding Protection From Abuse (PFA) orders.

PFAs are frequently submitted by women alleging spousal abuse; the orders can effectively remove the alleged abuser from the home, demand financial support, and cut off communication between the alleged abuser and children. According to Ben Vonderheide, the leading voice of Daddy Justice, *"There is such widespread abuse of PFA system in Lancaster*

County that legitimate victims are left in limbo...."

Vonderheide contended that, due to an excessively flexible reporting process, PFAs are frequently abused by women as a means to easily obtain custody rights to children without providing sufficient opportunity for the father to plead his case... Lancaster County, in particular, surpasses other areas in its frequency of PFA submissions. According to Vonderheide, Lancaster County reported 1,300 PFAs in 2008, while York County reported only 671: *"Would you content that your constituency is twice as violent and dangerous as the citizens of York?,"* he asserted.

LETTER: Morales still sits on Public Safety Committee

"The letter-to-the-editor headed 'City Council prez removes Morales for conflict of interest' states that Joe Morales, formerly chair of the Public Safety Committee of City Council, is now chair of the Community Development & Planning Committee. This is the Council committee that had been headed by Patricia Coller.

"What President Louise Williams did was simply to have Morales and Coller switch chairmanships of their respective committees. Other than that, nothing was changed. This is because the chair of the Community Development & Planning Committee also sits on the Public Safety Committee. Mr. Morales, now head of Community Development & Planning, is

still on the Public Safety Committee—he simply isn't the chairman!...

"This switching of chairmanships in City Council will have little or no effect in reducing the potential for a conflict of interest on the part of Morales, who is the salaried executive director of the Lancaster Community Safety Coalition, that controls the surveillance camera program in Lancaster City. This is because Morales remains a voting member of the Public Safety Committee. If each member gets one vote, regardless of whether the member is the chairperson or not, the switching of the chairmanships will have no effect on any vote taken by the Public Safety Committee..."

SUNDAY NEWS: An article is headed: “*A battle of wills: Judge says man, who changed his will to leave his estate, valued at \$1.25 million to county library, not under ‘insane delusion.’ Family seeks trial, claiming oral contract was made before his death.*”

It goes on to report: “*Because of Wilson Bucher’s history on the Lancaster County bench, the case was assigned to Judge C. Joseph Rehkamp of Perry County. On June 30, Rehkamp dismissed Wilson Bucher’s motion for summary judgment, ruling that while there’s no evidence his family was stealing from him, Thomas Bucher ‘had a strained relationship with his father and mother and siblings, and had expressed animus toward his brothers-in-law, particularly Steven R. Blair’ — and that his suspicions did not amount to an ‘insane delusion.’*”

WATCHDOG: If there is any “*insane delusion*”, it is on the part of the relatives that

LETTER: Commissioners Lease Ground - Refuse Free Ground

Reading on-line the Lancaster news it is interesting the proposed site for the forensic center will be on leased ground from Lancaster General Hospital. While, to be honest, it sounds like a reasonable location, once again government will cost us lease money and the ground will never be owned by the county...

The past board of county commissioners had a property that was being given to them for \$1.00 -

have brought what appears to be a frivolous action, perhaps as much out of a sense of having had their pride wounded as avarice. Tragically, it is costing the Lancaster Public Library tens of thousands of dollars to defend the bequest.

Thomas Bucher was single, had no children, and chose to leave his estate to charity. He made that decision five years before his demise, which allowed him plenty of time to reflect upon the decision.

It is sad to see Judge Wilson Blucher’s good name dragged through such an apparent sordid testimony to family dysfunction and greed by his son-in-law.

Full disclosure: Publisher’s wife, Karen Haley Field, is past president and current treasurer of the Lancaster Public Library (on Duke Street) and is the Administrator representing the Library in this matter.

basically FREE. The current board of commissioners changed that and wanted to look on their own. Okay, now we have NO property and we will be paying for the lease every month/year. I do not think that was a fiscally sound decision.

Where is the accountability from the news? The article was quite small - and while I do not know how it was placed in the paper I would be surprised if it was front page bold headlines: **Commissioners Spending Tax Payer Money to Lease Ground - Refuse Free Ground.**

LETTER: Lancaster Township police coverage

“*It has come to [our] attention that the Lancaster Township Safety Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, August 11th, 6 PM at the township offices (1240 maple Ave). The agenda is discussion of police coverage.*” —**School Lane Hills Neighborhood Association**

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