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City excludes Brunswick Hotel from redevelopment zone

What is head city planner Randy Patterson thinking?

The **Intelligencer-Journal** reports:

Details of Lancaster revitalization zone program are unveiled; *“The City Revitalization and Improvement Zone program will allow city officials to designate economically distressed areas, issue bonds to fund construction within those areas and repay those bonds with state tax revenue generated within the zone.*

“Randy Patterson, the city’s economic development and neighborhood revitalization director, said the proposal targets:

“The Bulova building and the east side of Lancaster Square”

Month after month, city officials decry the operation of the Brunswick Hotel which, along with the long vacant Bulova Building, the Brunswick Annex and a parking garage make up the derelict Lancaster Square East.

Are police officers capable of chasing a suspect?

A recent photo in the **Intelligencer-Journal** showed two middle age police officers who looked as though they would be at risk of a heart attack if they had to run around a block.

This not only creates concern for them, given the nature of the work, but also for suspects. A big gut makes it more likely that they might use a fire arm

From the time the Brunswick first opened as a four star Hilton for decades ago, the hotel has struggled for occupancy due to the scant hotel market in downtown Lancaster.

With the opening of the Marriott Hotel, which is City owned and leased to Penn Square Partners, the Brunswick has been ‘dead in the water.’ The cost of maintaining a building about the size of the Marriott continues while there is scant revenue to pay for its maintenance.

So when the opportunity has come to obtain funds not only to acquire the Bulova Building and also the Brunswick, raze them, and finally, after 60 years of efforts, get Lancaster Square East ‘right’ with a upscale residential development, the City nonchalantly turns it back on the Brunswick Hotel.

Perhaps come next November the citizenry will also ‘turn its back’, given Patterson’s abominable record of not having achieved anything for Lancaster over the two terms of the Gray administration.

rather than other means of defense and apprehension.

Police forces should have standards for fitness, adjusting for age. The officers should be subject to semi-annual testing. If they cannot meet standards after appropriate warning, then they should be deemed unsafe to perform their duties and dismissed.

Library System Administer Op-Ed Misleads; Sunday News Editor Negligent

Op-Eds provide an opportunity to provide a range of opinions on editorial pages. However,

contributors are entitled to their views, but not to distort the facts.

In “**Libraries are fighting for survival**” Bill Hudson, Administrator for the Lancaster County Library System asserts,

“The state funding the editorial referred to is distributed by the system, as required by law. What’s missing from the article is the fact that 100 percent of the funds are distributed by a formula created primarily by the directors of the member libraries in partnership with the system board.”

“As the editorial noted, the issue of fundraising is a contentious one. That is why the system board had meetings with member library directors, as well as interested member library board presidents. The goal is to find a way to get funding to support countywide programs/services that benefit all the member libraries while, at the same time, reducing the chances of negative local impact. A difficult task for sure but it has been an open conversation with the member libraries, and many are supportive of the discussion.”

At best this is misleading; at worst it is deceptive and arguably a purposeful distortion:

The major point of contention, of which the *Sunday News* editor certainly should be aware, is that each library has one vote regardless of number of users. To add insult to injury, the downtown Lancaster Public Library, the largest in itself with about 1500 visitors a day, has two non-voting suburban branches that are larger than some voting libraries.

Therefore Hudson’s statement that “*the funds are distributed by a formula created primarily by the directors of the member libraries in partnership with the system board*” is deceptive.

“*One library, one vote*” is the issue at the very heart of the controversy because, if voting rights were allocated by the number of people who use each library, there would not only be different policies but a much smaller, less bloated, and far less expensive Library System.

The *Sunday News* editor should have insisted on clarification or refused to publish this disingenuous propaganda. *NewsLanc* certainly would have.

We invite the *Sunday News* to re-publish this editorial as a Letter to the Editor.

Corbett administration chose not to enforce puppy mill law

HARRISBURG PATRIOT-NEWS: ...The auditor general’s report indicates the Department of Agriculture’s Office of Dog Law Enforcement was not prepared to enforce the law, and the administration – including the apparently unqualified Corbett appointee in charge of the office – “made a conscious decision to work with the kennel owners rather than citing them for not being in compliance.”

Auditor General Eugene DePasquale said he was “appalled that it turns out the department knew

there were violations of the law and instead of correcting the problems they decided not to conduct inspections.”

DePasquale, who as a legislator supported the new dog law, said “Before the new law went into effect in July 2011, Pennsylvania had one of the worst reputations in the country for allowing puppy mills. Now, we find out that the law changed but enforcement was so poor that there was little impact to alleviate puppy mill conditions.” ...

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