

me say that again, private sector compensations. We cannot keep spending in government operations just because we as elected officials have the legal right to stick our hands in your pockets as deep as we desire and grab as much as we wish. At the same time, we in the private economy operate within a limited budget and are relentlessly vigilant at finding the most cost effective way to achieve the best value for products, purchases

Working directly with the city staff over the next year, our City Council evaluated all suggestions, eliminated or outsourced departments and looked at actual equipment depreciation replacement needs, right sized staffing levels while planning long term. I'm very proud to be part of many significant accomplishments

or services.

for our residents and setting a conservative example for other elected officials across this country to show that it can and does work extremely well. How well you ask? Does cutting the levy over 33% in 4 years say that we were successful?

Let's just say, I kept my promise! We cut the spending while

we increased essential expenditures for the CIP (capital improvement plan) by redirecting the way in which we prioritize the needs and the wants of the city. To those that constantly say that "government doesn't run like a business", they're just plain wrong because a

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government operation is a "governmental big business". There needs to be a constant voice reminding everyone that the government works for us, not the other way around.

It's sad to think that the government "GROWTHERS" obviously used the word "dictator"

to discredit the significant efforts and bold work to reign in uncontrolled government expansion. I'll embrace being called a dictator and stand up against any group that refuses to recognize individual freedoms and destroy the meaning of the constitution. It's not the

> role of government to dictate over burdensome controls and take our earnings for redistribution to those who they chose. Our government must work for us, period. So hear me loud and clear, our founding fathers created a firm foundation written in the Constitution. We must lock arms, stand up and fight anyone that wants to diminish or shred what it stands for.

This brings to mind a quote from Thomas Jefferson; "Tyranny is defined as that which is legal for the govern-

ment, but illegal for the citizenry" I love this country, we need leaders that will lead and earn our respect by standing up to those politicians that are destroying the essence of this country's greatness.

My name is Mayor Mark Korin and I approve this message.... Will you?



Public Servant or Dictator?

On Sunday May 8th 2011, (Mother's Day) the Minneapolis Star and Tribune "crafted" an article with the headline "PUBLIC SERVANT OR DICTA-TOR" which was twisted to fit the "whistle blower" section demonizing my action of volunteering after the City of Oak Grove, MN was left without a City Administrator. This story is simple, my name is Mark Korin

and I was elected Mayor in 2010, and at the same time our City administrator quit.

But this story is not just about me, it's an example of what's happening in many government operations and what can be accomplished with a commitment of hard work and the tenacity to believe that change is possible and can be adopted throughout conservative leadership across this country.

Leading the new City Council with a strong conservative direction and looking for ways to restructure, cut costs and identify actual staffing requirements, what better way to get a first hand look but to immerse myself into daily operations as the City Administrator and report back to the entire City Council with suggestions

of how private sector business

values of management, staffing, budgeting and operations would allow us as council to restructure in a more cost efficient way while planning long term getting the most value for our residents.

But wait, I'm the Mayor, an elected official and I can't be a paid, full time employee.... so I did the work for free, spending

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on average 30 to 36 hours a week at the city's offices.

Why would I volunteer to do that? Because I saw a great opportunity to manage the city staff and observe the operations first hand. Running a design and engineering company as the CEO and a design engineer in my business life, solving problems, managing staff, coordinating the daily operation is what I've done my

entire career. I made a promise, if elected as Mayor, I would be a leader, not a politician, and I would bring private sector skills into the city's operations for our residents. Being the Mayor, and at the same time stepping in to fill the role as the City Administrator had never been done before.

I had a feeling that the

nay-sayers, main stream media would do exactly that, work at discrediting and belittling any effort for us to get an understanding of the actual current function of city operations. But as any elected official worth his or her weight in gold will tell you, it's completely different being on the "inside", than being told from the "outside". It was much more than the \$160,000.00 in savings,

it was my opportunity to work directly with the staff, to get them to realize that there is a new direction and they can help us on council make it a success for our residents..... AND THEY DID!

We need good dedicated, but the right number of staff, working within a budget, compensated fairly with salaries and benefits in line with private sector opportunities. Let