

Messy political times tied to Tamarac housing project

By Broward County Nonpartisan Examiner, Alan Cherry
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Incumbents win in the vast majority of city elections.

Put in the terms of rock, paper, scissors, challengers are rock and the incumbents paper – as in possessing lots of dollar bills to defeat opponents.

There is a path to toppling a sitting mayor or commissioner, however, especially in smaller elections where a group of angry motivated voters can stir up big trouble. For example, Davie voters in March whacked an incumbent mayor from office with the driving issue an unpopular commercial project.

Tamarac has one of those messes, the latest twist courtesy of Bob Norman's blog [The Daily Pulp](#). It comes as campaigns for mayor and commission start to percolate. Election Day is in early November.

There's trouble involving a Tamarac housing project, one that many residents opposed despite approvals granted at City Hall. As proven in Davie, that's nuclear and all the greenbacks in the bank might not be able to stop a public explosion.

Prestige Homes gained a government blessing to turn a golf course into a housing development, though surrounding neighbors didn't want it. Now the developer says he can't live up to an agreement to construct affordable housing at the site, citing the economy.

Media reports say a county commissioner is already wrapped up in the potboiler and has drawn the attention of state prosecutors. Norman now reports that the same developer allegedly offered \$200,000 to get a Tamarac mayor's wife to drop out of a 2006 city election.

Norman says he got the information from former Mayor Joe Schreiber, who was in the final days of his term in office. The Pulp quoted Schreiber: "They said they would bring it in a cardboard box, cash. I didn't say anything. I told them I would talk to my wife and let them know. I met them the next day and told them no deal."

The developer -- Bruce Chait -- went after

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Norman and Schreiber.

Norman lays it out in his blog, quoting Chait who tries to cast doubt on the allegation:

"You're getting information from an 85-year-old man and people who are jealous, but I know you thrive on it," he said.

Ouch, this is Tamarac, a town known for its older and vigorous voters. It's ironic that the politicians who have backed Chait's project have used those same older voters to stay in office.



**Broward County
Nonpartisan Examiner**
Alan Cherry

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