

Local Legislative Update

May 17th 2004

By Brad Worster GRI®, CPM® Candidate

The Norman 2004 Municipal Elections have come and gone. We now have one new Council Member and a new Mayor.

I personally threw my hat in the ring for Norman's Ward 4 City Council seat this year. My campaign obtained the number of votes that I was targeting however that target was short of what was necessary to win the seat. The overall result of my campaign was very positive even if I was unable to be elected. I was able to move forward several of my ideas, made a lot of new friends and contacts at City Hall and garnered the support of hundreds of Norman's Citizens. As far as unsuccessful campaigns go, I would call it a great success. I was proud and honored to be able to participate.

Our Mayor for the last three years, Ron Henderson, did not win his reelection bid. Dr. Harold Haralson will be taking up the gavel beginning early June.

Mayor Elect Haralson ran several advertisements prior to the election that denounced taking money from real estate professionals which continued to propagate a negative image of the real estate industry as a whole. This stance may have been nothing more than political posturing however represents some concern in the way that the new Mayor will handle real estate issues. There is a contingent of Norman Citizens that feel that certain people in the real estate industry are running the city. I personally see little truth in this idea though the real estate industry as a whole has been given a black eye over the last several years.

There is also concern that pending the climate of the Council as a whole, we may see some more restrictive policies enacted regarding landlords, zoning, and land use across Norman.

Several months ago I was active in working with the Norman Board of REALTORS® to help stall the Landlord Registration plan proposed by our exiting Council Member Ray (Ward 4). We have not seen the end of this proposal and work has begun again to bring it back to the forefront of the Council's agenda.

I again will do whatever it takes to protect the property rights of our clients and garner whatever support is necessary to see that this proposal either stalls loses momentum once again or is eliminated from consideration completely. Should a call to action be deemed necessary I may be contacting our clients in the future to get more voices heard by the Council and Mayor.

Changes at City Hall are inevitable and it is our intent at C&W Management Corporation to continue to stay abreast of the changes that may affect our clients and to keep them informed of pending issues. I am personally very active in our Municipal Government and meet regularly with Council Members, the Mayor, and City Staff. If you ever have questions or comments regarding Local, State or even Federal legislative issues that affect your real estate investments, I would be happy to visit with you.