

## **MAYOR'S VETO OF BILL 13, PURSUANT TO SECTION 79.140 (RSMO)**

Pursuant to Section 79.140 (RSMO) and City Ordinances, the Mayor hereby vetoes Bill 13, and returns said Bill 13 to the Board of Alderman with her written objections. The Mayor's objections are as follows:

Bill 13 is a proposed ordinance designed to undo in part the last election for Mayor of The City of Sunset Hills. The voting residents elected one Mayor to be their Mayor between two candidates. This proposed ordinance seeks to change the purposeful outcome of the election achieved by a majority of the voting residents by taking powers from the duly elected Mayor and giving them to the Board of Alderman. Our City government, as does the United States government, and State governments of our nation, and the vast majority of local governments, follow our founding fathers' intent and purpose by the establishment of federal, state, and local governments incorporating the principles of protecting the citizens from authoritarian or dictatorial leadership, by establishing a government with separation of governmental powers between three separate branches of government.

Consequently, each branch of government would act as a check and balance over the other branches, so that one branch of government may not become overly and dangerously authoritative, one-sided, and repressively controlling, like King George III (3<sup>rd</sup>), during the colonial period prior to our country's Declaration of Independence.

This proposed ordinance begins the travel down the proverbial slippery slope toward the unwanted and feared consequences of authoritarianism. Does our City want an authoritarian Board of Alderman and a weak ceremonial mayor? I think not. Bill 13, not only undermines the treasured values of the great American experiment known as democracy, the bill also undermines and disrespects our city residents who own this city, and voiced their intent and purpose by voting for and electing a mayor in the last election, with the powers bestowed upon her as mayor. Our residents voted for a continuation of the current Mayor's handling and administration of the City after three terms and six years in office, as the leader of the Executive branch of government.

The Board of Alderman were not given executive powers by statute or by the voters. The issue of nominations for City Board and Committee members was not discussed nor debated in the last campaign. The issue only comes up after a candidate for mayor loses.

For the above reasons and objections, I veto Bill 13 and return the same to the Board of Aldermen.

Mayor Pat Fribis