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County Executive

Lawrence S. Schwartz  
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Mr. Phil Reisman  
The Journal News  
1 Gannett Drive  
White Plains, New York 10604

Dear Phil,

Thanks for your analysis of your self anointed Larry-gram that I recently sent to Legislator George Oros. It would have been nice and refreshing had you actually discussed the point of the letter rather than interpret it as you saw fit. Dare to dream.

The point was to simply take note of the number of budget presentations that Legislator Oros missed. Had he shown up he would have found out that the overall cost savings for doing away with the mounted police actually would be about \$40K, not the mythological amount of \$500K, unless he is prepared to lay off police officers and send the horses to the glue factory. If he's not prepared to do that, then both you and anyone who buys his argument just fell for another horse, this one being of the Trojan variety.

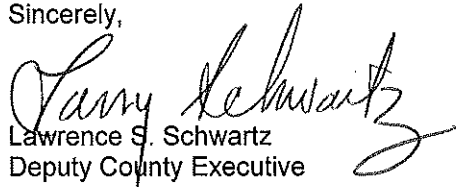
You see, for me, it's kind of important that if someone is going get on his "high horse" and talk seriously about cutting the budget, they show up and ask county commissioners the tough questions. Is that so much to ask?

In the Republican response to the budget, they propose cutting \$420K from the Department of Environmental Facilities. Ok, fair enough. However, had he shown up, he would have found out that it doesn't impact the general fund tax levy, as that is a sewer and refuse district charge, which is separate from the district tax levy. If that's his idea of responsible budgeting, there are some defunct financial investment houses that he should be talking to.

I have no problem, and made it clear to Legislator Oros, with him asking any questions about the budget. In fact, he had a standing offer to meet with me to discuss real cost savings. He never took me up on it.

If missing a good number of budget presentations, not having all the facts before you present budget cuts, and abdicating your legislative responsibilities to staff are your idea of how county, or any other form of government, should be run, then on behalf of all equestrians and responsible folks out there, I have two words for you - Horse Feathers.

Sincerely,



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LSS/ccm

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