

Celebrating 65 Years In The Tampa Bay Area

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## Serenity At The Expense Of Integrity

According to a local reporter, Hillsborough County government, without the leadership of Pat Bean is – “humming right along!” What the reporter means is County Government – two months into censured administrator Pat Bean’s three months suspension – is doing better than ever, thanks to acting administrator Mike Merrill. Indeed, things have been going so peacefully that rumors are rampant Pat Bean might become a memory in the annals of Hillsborough County government history. Having been given this news, one might imagine the public and the press would be lulled to sleep, finding at last, a solution to its problems. But we don’t think so.

The people of Hillsborough County do not want efficiency at the price of justice.

Let us explain. As this paper goes to print, neither the Florida Department of Law Enforcement nor any other agency has found or presented concrete evidence to prove that either Administrator Pat Bean or County Attorney Renee Lee has done anything, that would separate them from their jobs. Indeed, we were under the impression that even in Hillsborough County, folks were still presumed innocent until proven guilty!

No harm, nor disrespect to Mike Merrill. We’re sure he’s doing a terrific job. However, unless Hillsborough County wants one day to become PAT BEAN COUNTY, somebody in County Government needs to understand this fact.

Submitted into the  
Record by  
Charter Review Board  
Member, Gerald White  
May 24, 2010