

# Freedom Matters

A Weekly Newsletter

Dane County, Wisconsin

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We are a free people in a republic, under a constitution which limits the powers of government to those necessary to secure the unalienable rights of each person to their life, liberty and property. Yet, when a legislature is in session, no one's life, liberty or property is safe. It's the curse of a democracy. That's why we have a republic instead. *Freedom Matters* dedicates itself to the fight to restore our republic. Most of the press and courts fail to do so. They've forgotten that freedom matters.

**ACTION ALERT!** There is still time to testify on Ordinance Amendment #4. The public hearing has been continued until October 23. If you live on land zoned Exclusive Agriculture, whether a farmer or not, O.A. #4 may devastate your residential status and land value. For more information, and how to testify, reply to *Freedom Matters* either by e-mail (rebshar@chorus.net) or by phone (831-6653).

## County Comprehensive Plan Grant Application

by Michael Byrne

The Dane County Planning & Development Department (PDD), as of a letter dated September 20, 2001, is out trying to get the towns, villages and cities of Dane County to join it in a "multi-jurisdictional" planning grant application to the State for matching-money for comprehensive planning, under the State's comprehensive planning and "smart growth" law.

To date, no takers, and no wonder.

After all, what better way for the County Executive to control growth than to superimpose her vision over the local ideas of each community in the county?

Still, Majid Allan, at the PDD office, expects that as communities do their budget planning, they will have the opportunity to decide on participation in the county application. By the state's requirements, each municipality joining this project must enact a resolution formally stating it.

The September 20 PDD letter to the county municipalities announcing this grant application, states that "the plans will need to be consistent with, and not conflict with each other. For example, two plans should not classify the same area with contradictory land uses."

Of course, readers of *Freedom Matters* will no doubt raise their eyebrows considering the ramifications of the following statement from that same letter: "The County plan may incorporate land use elements developed by individual towns into the county-wide land use element, while elements such as economic development may be developed at the county level."

The letter does not say how the County would incorporate economic planning by villages and cities, which are mostly independent of County control. This is no light matter. All participating municipalities in such a grant are expected to enact the agreed-upon comprehensive plans.

Of all of Dane County's cities, villages and towns (61 of them), Allan estimates that at least three have shown an interest in participating. However, the deadline for submission of the grant application is November 1, 2001.

Allan, asked why he thought there had been only tepid response so far, said, "I think many of these communities may not be prepared or ready [for this level of land use planning]." Perhaps the real story is that most of them are independently prepared for how to deal with issues like this, and they know better than to get the County involved as the lead agency.

**Ordinance Amendment #4 Update.** OA #4 requires a rezone -- or in its amended form (Sub 1), a Conditional Use Permit -- to build a home on either a farm or a substandard parcel. The public hearing on it is still open for the ZNR meeting of October 23. The ordinance proposal purports to grandfather "farmers" (without defining who a farmer is), while leaving as nonconforming the hundreds of rural residents who already have their homes on parcels zoned Exclusive Agriculture. This ordinance amendment will wreak havoc with the value of farms and rural residences alike, and with the lives of those who own them. Unless the county board supervisors hear en masse from those affected by it, they are apt to enact this devastating ordinance amendment.

## Allegiance: That's the True Issue

by Bob Bowman

The Madison School Board decision to ban the Pledge of Allegiance *is all about allegiance* and not about the pledge at all. Madison is a hotbed of one-world government, an outpost of the UN Millennium Summit. People with that agenda are using the Madison public schools as a venue to teach a "political correctness" in which patriotism is a dirty word.

Of course, after the terrorist attacks on our nation, that agenda is being hidden. It's hiding behind a cited concern over the words "under God" in the pledge of allegiance. Yet, the word "God" is non-sectarian. It violates no principle of "separation of church and state." It is fitting for a Christian, a Jew, a Muslim (whose religion also refers to a God, as in the phrase "There is no God but Allah"), or for any other deist, or for those who see no Supernatural Being at all, for "God" can be used as another name for "Nature" or "Natural Law."

The words "under God" are a critical part of the pledge of allegiance. The founding fathers believed in a moral or natural law that is higher than the laws of men, higher even than our Constitution. Our Bill of Rights is our feeble human attempt to express some of this higher moral law in words. Thus, the words "under God" serve to remind us that this nation violates moral or natural law at its own peril.

The "politically correct" and "one-world" apologists do not believe in a moral law, nor in allegiance to our nation.

The Madison School Board voted against the pledge when Ray Allen and Juan Lopes of the Board could not be present to oppose non-allegiance. **The School Board will reconsider their vote Monday, Oct. 15 beginning at 5:00 PM at Memorial High School. Those who believe our public schools should not teach non-allegiance should attend and register. Some plan a rally there, to that effect. Send the Board a strong message. Show up.**

**Readers' Bulletin Board.** e-mail us your comments. Include your name, for publication by *Freedom Matters*

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