

WELCOME TO HELL!!!!

I recently saw these words on the window of a white SUV parked on 3rd Street. At the time, it bothered me that our town was being referred to as Hell. I wondered what visitors must think of people here. The longer I thought about this, the more I realized that those words were not altogether wrong! The devil's disciple and his angels are running our city government. Let's just take a look here:

Danny Cruz is a crook. He has no morals, no integrity, and no scruples. He spends his evenings drinking, doing drugs or beating his wife. It's no wonder she sleeps around, and around, and around. This man took money from the US Government and spent it. Even if it was erroneously given to him, he knew it wasn't his to keep and he spent it anyway. I believe I would have noticed an extra \$38,000 in my checking account, wouldn't you? Then he lied to all of us by saying he was paying it back! The five payments he made had to be pretty big! I don't think the government will garnish your wages if you are living up to your end of the bargain. Isn't this an outstanding example for our children.

Inmates at the NM Boys School refer to him as "The Snowman". Is that because he is so cool? Or, is it because of that white stuff he puts up his nose? The local teenagers have been heard to say he's fun to party with, he buys the booze. Wouldn't that be contributing to the delinquency of a minor? Watch your sons and daughters.

Ok, so his personal life is pretty disgusting, what about city hall? Has he done the best for this town? In his eight plus years as mayor what has he really done? Yeah, we have a few new paved streets, although many of the local businesses have suffered because of the medians. We still have a problematic water system. The only good thing that has happened with our water is Laura. This woman holds their feet to the fire and does things right. Our water is the best it's been in years and years and we still have a long way to go. How about the white elephant (as the mayor calls it)? The sewer project was started over four years ago! Again, because of Laura, it is under control. Definitely not in compliance with environmental standards, but at least raw sewage is not pouring out of the pump station and polluting the river. What did she get for her hard work? Maria didn't like her in the next office and had her moved to the shop! She was not even afforded the courtesy of being allowed to move her own things, or even told she was being moved — they just did it! Is the mayor trying to force Laura to leave? People, these are two very BIG issues - WATER and SEWER. I personally would rather have decent water and be able to flush my toilet, take a shower and do laundry than be able to brag that my street was paved. We need educated, experienced, qualified people to handle these things on a day-to-day basis. Laura is exactly that, educated, experienced, and qualified. Yet, she is paid less than any other department head.

Does he do what is best for this town? NO! The town was in desperate need of a "qualified, experienced, competent clerk-treasurer". Even though several well qualified, experienced people applied, what did we get? A woman who has spent the past 20 years talking to six year olds and playing with flowers! I will say that to her credit, she did say she had no experience but was willing to learn. However, she has since proven that she is as big a jackass as her boss. How many jobs do you know that start you out at maximum salary when you have no experience?

\$15 an hour is pretty good wouldn't you say? Then when she can't do the job, the mayor hires another friend, Lori, to come in and help her get caught up at \$25 an hour? Of course, this is done without ratification of the trustees. Then he hires his buddy, Mike's, wife to cleanup the town computers! (Another \$4,000, \$5000?) A professional could probably have done it for a few hundred. How many public dollars have been spent unnecessary because the mayor refused to hire a qualified person for the job?

Remember Laura? She recently hand-delivered a letter to the mayor, marked CONFIDENTIAL. The mayor was not in; she handed it to Maria to give to the mayor. Maria proceeded to open the letter. Laura informed her it was CONFIDENTIAL. Maria opened it anyway and read it aloud in the presence of others. To add insult to injury, she then began to make comments on the contents of the letter and laughed. How can you look at yourself in the mirror everyday Maria? Or have you also joined the snowman club? I always thought you were a reputable and good person. What kind of a deal did you make with the devil's disciple?

How about Annie? This woman has spent years doing volunteer work and working part-time at our public library. She was working a few hours a week for the town and was told by Maria that there was no longer any money to pay her and she would have to let her go. Of course this was after Annie started attending town meetings, asking questions of the devil's disciple and getting involved in town government. Now, only a few months later (same fiscal year, same budget) they are advertising the same position at 20 hours a week. Speaking of asking questions, Annie requested copies of public documents in accordance with the law that allows anyone access to public records. She was treated in a rude and cruel manner by Maria and her sidekick, Lorie, and then ultimately denied the copies that she requested because she did not request the documents by their "exact" name. This, people, is a violation of the law! What is so secret in city hall that records cannot be made available? What is there to hide? And, while we're at it, what business does a contracted employee have speaking for the clerk-treasurer?

This brings me to our illustrious Trustee King. He actually suggested in an open meeting, that copies of public documents be charged at the rate of \$1.00 per page to discourage anyone from asking for copies!!! Frankly, I'm surprised that he didn't get up and walk out, whining as he went "leave me out of this, leave me out of this". Trustee, King, if you don't want to be on the hot seat, resign. I think the only reason he is on the town council is to look out for the best interests of his employer. He certainly doesn't care about the people in this community.

How about Trustee Bivens? The silent member of the Board of Trustees! This man won't take a _____ without permission from the mayor. What is it he said? I'll just sit there and collect my money? Isn't Mr. Bivens the Mayor Pro Tem? Why does he say he won't show up if Daddy Danny can't be at the meeting? Come on Bivens, try growing a set, maybe you'll be able to look people in the eye. Get off the council, you don't belong there and you don't care about what is good for this community either.

Trustee Jump is finally speaking up! Good for him! Maybe not! Since Mr. Jump has been speaking up and trying to do the right thing, he has made the mayor's SHIT LIST! See for yourselves, read the mayor's monthly report where he takes pretty heavy-duty pot shots at

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I have heard many remarks about my last letter. Nothing I've said is untrue and in your hearts, you all know it. Danny Cruz distributes his Monthly Report in which he lies to all of us and signs his name. It makes me sick to my stomach that he would think we are all so stupid and gullible as to believe what he says because he signed his name to it. Take the time to find out for yourselves, I did.

What did I tell you about Trustee King looking out for the best interests of his employer? The proof is in the pudding! At the last Tuesday night town council meeting, Trustee King moved to drop the protest against Angel Fire, silent, gutless Trustee Bivens seconded the motion, Trustees Jump and Martinez voted NO, and the Devil's Disciple Cruz broke the tie by voting with Trustees King and Bivens. What could these three idiots possibly be thinking? Now, what does that mean to Springer? It could mean that we are DEAD LAST to receive any water and Trustee King's employer is in a position to control it all. Maybe this isn't technically a conflict of interest for Trustee King, but it sure smells fishy. Again, another example of total disregard for the Springer community.

To add insult to injury, Trustee King went on and on about how the head of the Springer Ditch Company was working against the town. He berated and insulted this very knowledgeable man who knows and has made it his business to know and understand water issues. LISTEN! LISTEN! The town was told by the State Engineer not to fill the lagoons above a certain point because the dams were unstable. They went ahead and moved all the water from the upper lagoon into the lower lagoon which brought the water level far above what it should be. That is, until the court said STOP. (more money spent on attorney fees) This doesn't sound like any big deal? What if the dam had burst? Then, no one would have any water. Another total disregard for rules, regulations, and the law.

The Springer Ditch Company has stored water and they are willing to sell to the town. What does Trustee King want to do? He stated that they should buy water from anyone else before the Springer Ditch Company. (Of course that would probably mean paying considerably more and is Trustee King forgetting that the Town of Springer is a major shareowner in the Springer Ditch Company?) Who in their right mind in New Mexico would give away water? Neighboring communities would love to have the stored water, and have expressed an interest in purchasing it. What do we do? Trustee King opens his big mouth, inserts his big foot, and possibly hurts an entire community. Your own agenda again, Trustee King?

Last year Mr. Gandara contacted shareowners of the Springer Ditch Company to get their permission to donate some of their water to the town because of the water shortage. The only thing he asked in exchange, was that the shareowners who donated water not be penalized for any overuseage. That sounds fair to me. Does this sound like a man who is working against the town? I think not. He has advised the town well. Under his guidance, the Springer Ditch Company has taken care of their water and has given the

town a viable solution to the water shortage. Mr. Gandara always consults with shareowners before making decisions concerning their water. Isn't this the way it should be done? Take a lesson Mayor Cruz. Trustee King needs to get down on his knees and make a public apology to Mr. Gandara.

What are you and I going to do when we run totally out of water? Maybe we can start burying our sewer in the backyard because we can't flush our toilets, filling only our sinks so that we can bathe, or wearing our clothes over and over because we can't do laundry. WATER and SEWER - TWO VERY BIG ISSUES that affect every single one of us.

Listen to this one! The budget that was submitted to the Department of Finance and Accounting was sent back with many, many corrections to be made. The projected revenue for the town was reported to be **50% more** than we actually will have!!!! Maybe we need to hire still another person to help the clerk treasurer. Changes were made to the budget AFTER the trustees approved it. Why do we have trustees? Why don't we just allow the Devil's Disciple and his angels to make all the decisions? The newest angel, Lori insisted the budget be approved that night. To the credit of Trustee King, he voted with Trustees Jump and Martinez not to approve the budget as presented. Good for Trustee King! We not only will not have any water, we probably don't have any money to buy any, if we can find it.

Trustee Martinez thanked Lori for providing an expenditure report (The first one in over 7 months!). She then asked if they could expect one every month and said she would like to have past reports so she could study them. Lori, then said the report was NOT ACCURATE!! Why bother? People, if this is an example of the town's financial condition, we are in deep _ _ _ _ !

The trustees are still not getting supportive documentation so they can make informed decisions on town matters. They were not told there was a court date to hear the merits of the temporary injunction filed with the court; they were not informed of the outcome; they were not given a final tentative budget; they were not provided with minutes of the last meeting until the meeting (violation of the law); etc., etc. When Trustee Martinez asked why, Maria said she had copied everyone on all necessary correspondence. Where is it? Again, to add insult to injury, the Devil's Disciple then requested that Trustee Martinez submit a list of correspondence she would like to have! Can you believe that? The Devil's Disciple and the trustees of this town are paid to take care of our town, yet only the Devil's Disciple and his angels are privy to the important matters affecting all of us. Open your eyes, open your mouths and make yourselves heard.

I have it on very good authority that Lori was about to be fired in Maxwell for incompetence. The Village of Maxwell will not give her a good recommendation, the books were a mess, the filing was a mess, reports were not submitted, minutes were not submitted, etc., etc. Now this woman is making our budget and running the town finances? Did anyone bother to do a background check? Sure doesn't sound like it. Get on the phone, call people, and ask questions.

Where is the clerk treasurer in all of this? Who is supposed to be responsible for the budget, etc? Not Lori, the deputy clerk -- it's Maria, the clerk treasurer. She sits there like a bump on a log and never says a word, allowing Lori to take over. Now we have two incompetent people making clerk treasurer wages of \$14.00 an hour? The clerk treasurer job is very complicated. The job requires extensive experience, computer knowledge, and software training. It requires extremely good people skills. We had two or three qualified people apply and they were never even considered. Why? What kind of a deal was made? What are they trying to hide?

What about the silent Trustee? Does he ever have a thought of his own? Or, is he simply a carbon copy of the Devil's Disciple. He's been known to say that it's just too complicated for him to understand. The only words spoken by Trustee Bivens at the last meeting were "I second" when he sided with Trustee King to give our water away. Resign Bivens, you're hurting this town.

Speaking of resigning, Danny Cruz, if you really want to do something for this town, RESIGN and take your angels with you.

This is how it works. The Board of Trustees can only vote on the mayor's recommendation. If the mayor chooses to recommend only one person, that is the only person that can be voted on. If the trustees will not vote to approve his recommendation, the job cannot be filled until the mayor recommends someone the trustees will approve. Now, you all know that Danny Cruz is a hardheaded, egotistical, micromanaging maniac. But, maybe you didn't know that when he recommended his angels, it was "this is my ONLY recommendation". Trustees Jump and Martinez voted NO to both recommendations, Trustees King and Bivens voted YES, and who broke the tie? You got it -- the Devil's Disciple! One angel simply did not meet the minimum qualifications, and the second angel had already proven what a rude and conniving person she was. The Devil's Disciple has a tremendous ego. Is this normal? Or is it chemically induced?

These things could not have happened if we had a responsible person at the helm. The Devil's Disciple has hired incompetent, inexperienced people to take care of our business and paid them very well to screw things up. He is ruining this town. You better wake up before it's too late. He is an elected official and he works for us. This town is in serious trouble. "PROGRESS IN MOTION"? NO, more like "NO PROGRESS IN MOTION".

Do you know what other communities think of our Springer government? In talking to people from other communities, it is obvious to me that we are the laughing stalk of the county. We are the only ones who don't seem to know this because we (as a community) keep electing Danny Cruz. What is it going to take to wake you up? People, ask questions, get involved, know what's going on, make your wishes known. The mayor and trustees work for you. There are many good and intelligent people here, and some of you are coming forward - good for you! But where are the rest of you? We deserve a whole hell of a lot more than we are getting.

UPDATE!

There was another budget meeting held at city hall. Trustees King and Martinez were the only two trustees in attendance. Mr. Jump and Mr. Bivens, where were you? In light of the fact that the budget turned into DFA was returned with many, many serious discrepancies that needed correcting, it would benefit all four trustees to pay very close attention to every detail. Case-in-point: The budget turned into DFA was not the same budget approved by the trustees (which is illegal). The budget presented at this meeting was still a different budget. How will we know what DFA actually gets? This latest budget did not address the deficiencies cited by DFA. They have still not received any financial reports. When Trustees King and Martinez asked questions, they were told by the Devil's Disciple that they were picking on the deputy clerk and were told they should have done their homework prior to going to the meeting. He also said the meeting was taking too long and everyone wanted to go the homecoming game! Do homework? How can they do their homework when they studied one budget and upon arrival are presented with another? Take too long? Lori said she still had a lot more to do before any financial reports could be produced. How can we expect to build a budget when our clerk and deputy clerk have no idea what the financial status of this town is? What have Lori and Maria been doing for the past six months! I cannot stress strongly enough how important the town budget is, nor how much trouble I believe our town is in.

Until now, we have been fortunate to have knowledgeable people in these two positions. Danny Cruz is out of control. **NONE OF THESE THINGS COULD CONTINUE TO HAPPEN UNLESS THE MAYOR SANCTIONS THEM.**

Here are some questions you need answers to:

1. What has happened to the capital credits from Springer Electric that the trustees voted unanimously to return to the people of this community? (The rural electric users got theirs.)
2. Angel Fire will now have first choice at the water. How could this impact Springer? (Who is more important to you -- your homes and families or a bunch of out-of-state skiers?)
3. What gave the Devil's Disciple and his angels the authority to change the approved budget? The budget included at least one item that was specifically denied by the trustees.
4. Why aren't the trustees provided with necessary correspondence?
5. **THE BIGGIE!** Why has nothing been done to further the improvement of the water and sewer systems. Where is all the money?