



Relationships Matter!

Lines of communication, open collaboration, and genuine relationships matter. They aren't something you can turn on when you need them.

As Council President, maintaining an open and active relationship with constituents, the local and global private sector, elected officials from all levels of government, our local community organizations and long-standing institutions, the employees of the City, and all that come through the doors of Utica have been integral in being a useful and effective representative for the people.

A few weeks ago, in practice, this mattered. A situation arose where the community thought (incorrectly) that Stewart's was tearing a building down with no permit. The building was left open for people to roam through with a wall partially torn down during the cleanout, creating a potentially dangerous situation for the community. (full story below) I've constantly and consistently

been called upon to solve direct community issues, bring minds together for the council, and have fostered new initiatives that improve the well-being of how the city government serves the people. proving that with the community resume of relationships I brought to the table in 2015, which I've continued to build as Council President, that relationships matter, and are a big part of being an operative leader.

the building was secured. How did that happen, and happen in short order? Good relationships. I called Chuck Marshall from

So, Stewart's? A fence went up and

Stewart's. I said, Chuck, what is going on with the development? There is a wall torn down and kids can just roam in and out of the building, this doesn't sound like how you operate. He said, we don't own it yet. Within a few hours of following up with different individuals, the result was

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that even though Stewart's hadn't closed on the property yet, I received a text from Chuck Marshall saying, "there will be a fence up tomorrow." When I drove down the next morning there was. Issues like this aren't always solved with 3 hours of work, but this is a great example of an attitude of simply helping the community solve the issue in a day. No matter big or small the issue, how influential the project or



initiative, no matter how contentious a situation may be, my ability to maintain relationships, real collaborative relationships, and my absolute refusal to alienate people or use issues as political footballs, give me an advantage in leading the City. People pick up the phone when I call. As Mayor, on top of managing the city, working day in and day out to build from what we have and make measurable improvements to our

municipality, I will continue to ensure the state of our community is relevant in minds of county, state, and federal officials, constituents who are active in the local community have place and purpose, and I use the groundwork laid as Council President as a launchpad as I begin to lead the city forward. Relationships matter. **Around Town**





Senator Schumer regarding Verizon

Participated in a small business roundtable at the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce featuring Congressman Williams (NY22)



Providing in person commentary for



YouTube Features



discuss the budget. We ended up in a conversation about what it means to commit to the office.

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