

Councilman Nash Resigns From Missouri Municipal League Over Collective Bargaining



Councilman Troy Nash

Councilman Nash recently made the following statement regarding his participation in the Missouri Municipal League:

Since my election to the Kansas City, Missouri City Council in the spring of 1999, I have been a member of the Missouri Municipal League. Despite the League's good intentions, I have become increasingly concerned that the policies it has adopted and legislative priorities it has set are not only misguided, but also run contrary to its original statement of purpose.

After reading the League's January Legislative Bulletin, I was particularly distressed. The Board's consistent opposition to public employee collective bargaining and allowing some public employees, such as police officers, to be organized in to unions is a policy that I cannot adhere to. Rather than focusing its attention on striving to

improve the quality of life for citizens of municipalities, MML appears to care only about ensuring that city and town expenses are low, regardless of the effect on the quality of service.

Americans have a right to be organized into unions in order to have their economic and professional interests protected. Furthermore, when employees do organize, the union that represents them should be entitled to enter into binding arbitration with governments and companies. They do not do harm, they only represent the will of their membership. Government should not apply a lesser standard to itself than it does to industry, yet that is exactly what the Missouri Municipal League calls for in this case.

The social contract was created in order to form a government. In this unwritten agreement, people abdicate some of their rights and liberties to the government in order to be protected and in order for the government to advance the public good. Should governmental entities, regardless of size, fail in that obligation placed on them, they have shirked their responsibilities under the contract is broken. We must prevent such acts from being taken. In its rigid opposition to collective bargaining, MML ignores what is best for the cities and towns of its membership. In so doing, it violates the social contract.

Regardless of the possible added expense, no one is well served when citizens are prohibited from exercising their right to organize. Similarly, governments and societies are not truly advancing the public good when they prevent union members from engaging in collective bargaining and ensuring that they are given the respect and compensation that they deserve. Instead, when we do so, we strike at the heart of justice and neglect our moral obligations.

It is my deep hope that the Missouri Municipal League's Board will reconsider its policy towards collective bargaining and allowing police officers to join labor unions. They are entitled towards fair representation in their negotiations with governments, regardless of size. Municipalities only harm themselves and their citizens when they refuse to honor the considered and reasonable opinions of public employees.

Until such time as the League's policy is reconsidered and altered, I must submit my resignation from the organization. I cannot possibly belong to an association whose policies are fundamentally opposed to my philosophy of government and the public sector's role in improving the quality of life for citizens. I cannot support policies that serve to undermine America's working men, women, and families, and thus I cannot support the Missouri Municipal League.

VOL. 29 NO. 08 kcjglobe@swbell.net

40 CENTS

WEEKLY PUBLICATION

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2001—WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2001

THE KANSAS CITY GLOBE
Serving Metropolitan Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas for Over 29 Years
