



Jimmy Dimora is right:

Cuyahoga GOP Chairman Rob Frost is “suffering” and “frustrated”

May 21, 2007

(Cleveland) – In response to criticism from this source last week of the decision by the Cuyahoga County Commissioners to waste \$20 Million of taxpayer dollars to demolish a Cleveland skyscraper that could be more affordably and efficiently renovated, Commissioner and Democratic Party Chairman Jimmy Dimora described me in today’s *Plain Dealer* as “suffering” and “frustrated.” (*Plain Dealer*, Tipoff May 21, 2007).

Dimora is right! I am just as frustrated and am suffering just as much as my fellow Cuyahoga County taxpayers who pay the highest sales tax rate in the state, and pay more in property taxes than any other Ohio County! (Source: Ohio Dept. of Taxation).

Unable to defend the decision to knock down the historic Breuer Tower, Dimora responded in typical fashion by resorting to personal attacks. However, such attacks do little to assure the citizens of Cuyahoga County that their tax dollars are being well managed. Dimora’s claim in today’s paper that the project will turn a vacant property into a viable one, create jobs and stimulate development, skirts the central issue: why demolish when a rehabilitation and reuse of the existing building is \$20 Million less expensive?

That issue will be aired and discussed over the next few weeks, in public meetings and a community forum, which all who are interested may attend. The **Breuer Building Community Forum** at Webtego, 2530 Superior Ave on Weds. May 23 at 6 p.m. hosted by Meet the Bloggers, will examine the environmental impact of demolition versus reuse. Then on June 1 and June 8, the City of **Cleveland Planning Commission** will meet to take public comment and ultimately decide if a demolition permit should be issued by the City. (9 a.m. both dates, at Cleveland City Hall Room 514).

Another hot topic the Commissioners have been skirting lately is the much rumored sales tax increase they intend to put on the ballot soon. The sales tax increase under consideration by the County Commissioners would be for an additional quarter percent, expected to produce roughly \$40 Million dollars. This would raise Cuyahoga County sales tax rates, already the highest in the state, to a whopping 7.75%. Taxpayers have to wonder why, if the County needs money so badly, the Commissioners would throw away \$20 Million on the County Administration Building project by demolishing instead of reusing the tower. Frustrated? Suffering? It sounds like a fair description of Cuyahoga County residents under Dimora’s reign as Commissioner.

- Vacant Building at E.9th and Euclid -- \$22 Million
- Unforeseen Asbestos Abatement Costs -- \$9 Million
- Excess Cost of Demolition -- \$20 Million
- FLEEING THE COUNTY TAXPAYERS YET AGAIN...

PRICELESS!