

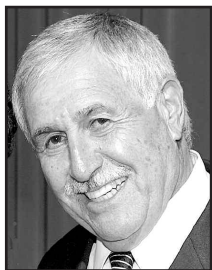
# Cutler Bay

MAY 25, 2010

SERVING SOUTH DADE

## My new vocabulary of four-letter words

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Councilmember

Being in politics, I have learned a few new words and phrases, some of which are dirty and some four-letter words, so now is the time to stop reading this to your underage children.

Let's start with the dirty word first. One of the first phrases I learned when

I began my term as an elected official, was "Dirty Dozen."

This is a group of people, (usually a dozen or so, but my town has less) who show up at every meeting to find fault with what the elected officials or staff are doing. They never offer anything positive, but simply annoy us. At first I thought that this was something unique to my town but, after meeting with hundreds of officials from all over the country, I learned that every city and town has them.

Now onto four-letter words. (goodnight, kids). I found out that we had CAVE people in our town. My first thought was that a new tribe had been found living in the Everglades that had migrated to Cutler Bay. As usual, I was wrong!

They are Citizens Against Virtually Everything — and they are. They too come to every meeting to oppose just about anything that the town leadership wants to do. I swear that if we voted to have me hand out \$1,000 bills to everyone in town from my own personal bank account, the CAVE people would complain that they wanted two \$500 bills instead. There is no winning with them and yes, every town has them.

Now the one most people are familiar with, especially in Palmetto Bay — the NIMBY people. NIMBY stands for Not In My Back Yard. These folks want everything — new schools, wider roads, better shopping facilities, more parks, better lighting, but... Not In My Back Yard.

Then there are those few wonderful folks who volunteer for just about anything to help the town, work hard, get

little if any recognition, and are just happy doing good things. I love them all!

I have learned through all this that making decisions for a town requires a great deal of study and insight. The decisions that we elected officials make will affect the town for many years to come and we must be thinking about those that will be moving here in the future and how we will handle future growth.

For those not involved in the day-to-day machinations of all this, the answers are sometimes simplistic and appear obvious, but I assure you that they are not. I often encounter groups of three, four or five people who gather in someone's living room and decide that they "speak for the people" and that I should follow their lead. The trouble is that those of us in politics who are really doing our jobs are out with the people virtually all the time and get to hear many points of view, more than the average citizen.

Occasionally people will threaten me by promising not to vote for me again. My usual reply is that I would hate to lose a job that pays around \$2 an hour. That's it folks. Those of us who really are dedicated do this just because we feel we can make a difference and improve our towns and cities.

Yes there are those who seem to profit from it, but we usually see them on the 11 o'clock news being escorted from their respective offices. For the rest of us, we just go on doing our best. I doubt that any street, park, or monument will be named after me but every once in a while someone comes out of nowhere and hugs me or shakes my hand and thanks me for all the hard work I do.

Believe it or not, this makes up for the NIMBYs, CAVE people and Dirty Dozen, so the next time you see a public official that you like, just go up to them and say "thanks."

Don't bother with me however. My live-in says that my ego is big enough already.

Other articles of national importance can be viewed at Ernie's website at <[www.sochin.com](http://www.sochin.com)>.