



November 18, 2008

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I have now been your alderperson for about a year-and-half and am thoroughly enjoying it (most days)! I occasionally post newsy, policy-oriented updates on this list serve and people should email me at district13@cityofmadison.com if you would like to receive those directly.

Instead of rehashing the budget debate or other policy matters, I thought I would share a few personal stories about my serving on the Madison Common Council, much of which involves attending meetings. Because I also take care of our six year old daughter, she often comes along with me. Generally that is a good thing as she gets to see her Mom working on important issues; however, it may also be giving her an out-size view of my “importance” in the world.

To wit: Clare often comes along to meetings I have with Mayor Cieslewicz. I have to give her credit as she is pretty well-behaved and extremely adapt at charming staffers to give up their candy stashes! As a result of listening in on many of these conversations, Clare has developed many firm thoughts on improvements for Madison that she very freely shares. These conversations typically start with her insisting that the next time I see the Mayor, I should definitely “make” him do X or Y.

This six year old perception of Mommy’s work was taken to a whole new level after the election of Barack Obama. The day after the election she began our breakfast conversation by saying “Mommy, the next time you meet with Barack Obama, you should tell him that we definitely need a girl president.” After a taking a much-needed sip of coffee I responded by saying “Well, that’s a great idea, but I don’t think Mommy will actually be meeting with Barack Obama.”

She stared at me in wide-eyed shock and said “**But Mommy, you are the Alder.**”

I went on to explain that the president-elect likely had a few more important people to meet with than Madison’s 13th District alderperson, but I don’t think she quite believed me!!

I have very appreciated getting to know many of you and hope that people will feel free to call or email me about important issues in our city. The best way to reach me by phone is 260-2661 and my email address is district13@cityofmadison.com

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