



## Government should serve needs of poor citizens, too

### DELAWARE VOICE

BY AARON R. MOORE • MAY 3, 2010

I am becoming more and more disillusioned, almost to the point of despair, concerning government's role and [responsibility](#) in support of services for people who are not able to speak on their own behalf because of disadvantages and disabilities.

Politicians are positioning themselves as candidates for coming elections. But my question is: Where is the 'public servant' who will take an uncompromising stand of support for those who have no voice or vote?

The politics of government seem to be controlled by those who have the loudest voice, significant [financial](#) support and personal agendas.

Government should be controlled by the needs of all people, especially those silent voices who lack any political influence.

As an example, I recently read a letter from Wilmington leaders not only denying their support but also requesting another state agency to deny its support for [funding](#) for a nonprofit organization attempting to develop affordable housing for individuals and families with extremely low incomes.

As an [employee](#) of this organization -- Connections Community Support Programs -- I could understand a denial from any funding source, but to be blackballed by political influence rather than on merit is demoralizing. The letter also stated that too many service providers would have a "ghettoizing" effect upon the community.

Is this "ghettoizing" a reference to the service providers or those being served? It is this kind of overt discrimination that led to the Civil Rights movement. Those who were once the victims of discrimination are now the perpetrators.

The support that was denied will provide housing for 22 individuals and families with very low incomes, on the brink of homelessness, while at the same time bringing jobs and almost \$5 million in state and federal [funds](#) into the city. While some value property, plans and proposals, who will value human beings and human rights?

The not-in-my-backyard paranoia still exists, and this systemized delusion has extended to include human service providers, as well as the demonizing of any community with more than "their share" of service providers.



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While some people are dissident in their opinion of the number of service providers in any given area, there are those who have embraced the dignity, worth and respect of all people to receive help and assistance without regard to location.

There was a time when social services to the minority, as well as housing, [education](#), jobs, etc., were restricted to certain areas and locations. Are we going back to the future?

If Wilmington fails to support affordable housing for its citizens, and the most vulnerable of its constituents, it will inadvertently push those teetering on the brink into homelessness. Why would the city administration take an official position against a \$4.9 million development project that would bring [construction jobs](#) and provide stable housing for people with very low incomes?

All of us want to see the value of our [investments](#) increase, and the recent difficult economic times have challenged everyone. But the vulnerable people who need housing, health care, employment opportunities and human services and the agencies that provide them are not the cause of the Wilmington's woes.

In this election, I am seeking and supporting a public servant -- not a politician -- who understands and embraces the needs of all of the citizens.

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