

To the Urban/Economic Development Committee, Utica Common Council - March 9, 2011
Comments by Frank Montecalvo on Utica Master Plan's "Implementation Plan" Section

The Utica Master Plan's Request For Proposals says that the "Implementation Plan" is supposed to contain the consultant's reviews of the existing Zoning Ordinance, Capital Plan, and Subdivision Regulations, with specific recommendations for each taking into account the goals and objectives identified through the community visioning process. What has been produced is nothing like that.

Instead, we have the vaguest of plans, filled with technical jargon, that will require a host of appointees to (1) further define the plan [a legislative function], (2) implement the plan [an executive function] and (3) determine what proposals are or are not consistent with the plan [a judicial function]. **If that does not sound like the creation of an Administrative Agency to control Utica, I don't know what does.** It will be anyone's guess what kind of mischief this beast will cause, but, clearly, another level of bureaucracy is being created for citizens to deal with.

While this is **spun** as *good* -- because it will implement the plan no matter what administration comes into office -- that is precisely why this is **bad**. You, the Common Council, the Mayor, and other elected officials, represent the Will of the People of Utica. It is *your* job to determine public policy. Instead, this implementation plan would delegate your responsibility to unelected appointees, up to half of whom can be non-city residents. The people who volunteer to serve on the committees will have agendas -- personal, or those of their organizations. The policies produced will reflect the desires of *their social networks*, not the Will of the People of Utica. Anyone who values our representative form of government should be against this.

If the Utica Master Plan is enacted with this implementation scheme, it will be the last nail in Utica's coffin.