



County of Hamilton

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RHODES QUESTIONS COUNTY STUDY COMMITTEE

The following sentence is from the County Commissioners' "2010 Budget in Brief" publication:

Hamilton County has no top executive and no single overall governing body. Administrative powers rest with a three-person Board of County Commissioners and eight other elected officials who function as the independent heads of their departments. (underlining added)

So why would the County Commissioners alone presume the sole authority to appoint all the members of a supposedly impartial and open county government "study committee"?

That is the question being asked by County Auditor Dusty Rhodes who suggests the committee should be reconstituted with the Commissioners appointing three members and each of the other eight county officials appointing one each to be truly representative of county government as it exists today.

"They have called into question whatever results their committee produces," said Rhodes. "The group has been handpicked by the Commissioners alone," he added.

He suggested the process is also badly flawed because the Commissioners have dictated a deadline for the committee's final report.

"How can the structure of government be seriously reviewed in six weeks", he asked. "A County Commission fast tracking construction of a football stadium was bad enough. Now another wants to fast track restructuring of the entire county government", he said.

Rhodes also challenged the idea that the committee has "no preconceived ideas".

"Commissioner Todd Portune said county government is archaic and agrarian", he said. "That sounds like a presumptive judgment to me", he added.

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