

## Political Update – December 2006

The City of Chicago Heights Mayor Anthony DeLuca announced a recently approved ordinance designed to protect the community from vicious dogs. The ordinance was put to its first test immediately following the enactment, when a 100-pound pit bull dog broke loose from a chain and attacked a postal worker, who avoided being mauled by placing her mail bag between herself and the dog. Another dog displaying aggressive behavior was taken into custody; the first dog was ultimately put down. Under the new ordinance, the owner of an aggressive dog may be subject to fines and precautionary steps, which could include having the dog fixed with an embedded microchip, having the dog neutered, erecting a fence and sign, and requiring that the dog be muzzled and leashed if taken in public places. The new ordinance could also require the owner enter the dog into a behavioral socialization class.

Mayor DeLuca also announces a low-interest program to help flood victims, which is spearheaded by Chicago Heights 6<sup>th</sup> Dist. Alderman Michael Sabo. The loan program would be used in conjunction with 50-50 flood relief program for the purchase of appliances ruined by flood waters and installation of overhead sewer systems.

Expect to see former Chicago Heights Mayor Angelo “Sam” Ciambrone spending a little more time at track side in the coming years. Ciambrone, who served as mayor from 1995 to 2003, recently received a six-year appointment from the governor to the Illinois Racing Board. He joins 11 other commissioners in enforcing the Illinois Horse Racing Act, which governs all the horse racing in the State of Illinois.

Ciambrone is a partner in the law firm of Wilczynski, Wilczynski & Ciambrone. House Small Business Committee Chairman Congressman Don Manzullo recently joined national manufacturing leaders in announcing a new program designed to train and certify workers in the advanced skills demanded by today’s American manufacturers. Manzullo, who chairs the House Manufacturing Caucus, joined other leaders in DC to make the announcement. Congressman Manzullo says that a full 80 percent of manufacturers surveyed are having trouble finding qualified and skilled production employees, according to a recent study by the National Association of Manufacturers. NAM estimates that U.S. manufacturers will face a shortage of 10 million skilled workers by 2020 if the current trends go unchecked.

Manzullo notes that many high-paying manufacturing careers are available statewide to those workers who possess the necessary skills. The job now, says Manzullo, is to train and certify employees in these skills so they can help American manufacturers continue to innovate and thrive.

Legislation was recently passed by Congress to increase the scrutiny of foreign purchases of companies operating in the U.S., while continuing to encourage foreign investment. The bill, HR 5337, would reform the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, a secretive government committee that granted rapid and cursory approval to the deal that gave Dubai Ports World, a state-owned enterprise of the United Arab Emirates, management control over 27 terminals at six major U.S. ports earlier this year. Manzullo played a key role in helping to write the provisions concerning the increased scrutiny of state-owned enterprises that purchase U.S. companies. Manzullo says the move will strengthen national security. Specifically, the legislation would require CFIUS to conduct an automatic 45-day extended investigation when foreign

government-owned enterprises try to purchase companies operating in the United states; require CFIUS to provide more information to Congress on pending deals; require CFIUS to consider foreign purchases of infrastructure in the U.S. as a national security concern; and names the Secretary of the Dept. of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Commerce as the vice chairs of the CFIUS committee.

State Rep. Rosemary Mulligan held a fall seminar to assist area veterans with state and federal benefits and services. Rep. Mulligan cites that while many veteran benefits and services are available to veterans, many don't know or are uncertain about how to apply for them. The exposition included the participation of the several U.S. departments of veteran services and also featured a memorial service honoring fallen military men and women.

*This column is written by Nina Albano Vidmer, executive director of the Italian American Political Coalition. To submit information, please fax to 708-401-0360 by the first of each month for consideration in the following month's issue.*