



Photo by Patrick Sullivan

Archie Weinstein remains his fiery self after beating back a recall effort. Weinstein's attorney, William Honsowetz, sent a letter to the Citizens Cooperating to Recall Weinstein demanding the group withdraw its charges linking Weinstein to organized crime or face a possible lawsuit for slander.

Archie's lawyer plots lawsuit

Recall Weinstein group asked to withdraw charges

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

The effort to recall Lane County Commissioner Archie Weinstein has failed, but it may be the beginning of a fight that could last several months and involve legal action.

Jan Newton, co-chairer of the Citizens Cooperating to Recall Weinstein, says the committee received a certified letter from Weinstein's Eugene attorney, F. William Honsowetz, Wednesday morning outlining possible legal action because of allegations connecting Weinstein to organized crime.

Newton says the letter was delivered to the CCRW headquarters shortly after noon. Honsowetz wrote that if the allegations about Weinstein's connections with two out-of-state corporations with suspected organized crime ties were not retracted, he would advise Weinstein to file a lawsuit for slander.

In his letter, Honsowetz called the allegations baseless and promised to force a court battle if necessary.

Newton, however, says the CCRW isn't afraid of the threat. A lawsuit would give the committee the right to discovery, which would open all of Weinstein's past business practices up to legal scrutiny.

The CCRW also filed a second complaint Tuesday with the state Ethics Commission, contending

Weinstein failed to list 13 extra property holdings on a state financial interest report required of all public office holders.

Weinstein told reporters last week his property holdings were exaggerated and that the CCRW was wrong about a conflict of interest because of his failure to file a completed statement.

During Tuesday's election, voters in the eight University-area precincts overwhelmingly supported the recall movement. Two years ago the same precincts voted heavily in Weinstein's favor.

Weinstein's victory Tuesday, and the victory of three other moderate or conservative county commissioner candidates, may signal trouble for the county's land-use planning goals, Newton says.

However, defeat of Oregon's Ballot Measure 10, which would have restricted the powers of the Land Conservation and Development Commission, and the overwhelming margin of loss in Lane County points to the county's commitment to land-use planning, Newton says.

That commitment could "temper" the statements by the incoming commissioners, she says. "They might not be as bold as Weinstein in their public statements about land-use goals."

The CCRW will also continue as a watchdog group, which will pay particular attention to county government and to land-use plans made by the new commissioners, Newton says.

NAACP criticizes University decision

The Eugene branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has announced its condemnation of University officials for denying tenure to affirmative action Director Myra Willard.

The new statement endorses an NAACP Northwest Area Conference resolution that charges University officials with harassment and intimidation of Willard, and denial of tenure to her and other women and minorities solely because of sex and racial background. The resolution was announced in September.

Willard filed a \$4 million class-action suit against the State System of Higher Education and University officials in July after a faculty board denied her tenure.

The Eugene branch sent notice of its announcement to the central NAACP office in New York and asked that it be placed on the agenda of the upcoming national conference for passage by that body.

Council accepts veterans

The University Veterans have been accepted as a full voting member of the Oregon Veterans' Civic Council this week, according to John Lawrence, program director.

Only thirty members are allowed into the civic council from organizations throughout the state. Other members of the OVCC include U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver, D-Eugene, Rep. Les AuCoin, D-Portland, U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood and the National Alliance of Businessmen.



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