## Give Hills consultants review every 3 years

e Six moints is enough time for the city council to review the city's legal course). Larson, Harms & Wright, and consider bids from other law firms.

It shouldn't take a year.

So I agree with council members Paul Sowerby, Jean Fox and Ben Marks. Approving a new one-year contract before the review process begins, even though there's a 60-day termination clause, sends the wrong message. A long-term contract should follow a positive review, not precede it.

should follow a positive review, not precede it.

The city attorney shouldn't be singled out. Short-term contracts – six mouths long – also should be in force when the city's planning consultant and auditor are reviewed.

I'd suggest that each be reviewed every three years.

City attorney Paul Bibeau, now associated with Larson, Harms & Wright, last had to "make ac ase" for why bis firm should represent the city in 1985. Previously with Berennan, Bibeau & Poehlmann, be has représented the city since the early '70s.

As council-watcher Rosa Flum

Sklar

• Mayor Terry Sever Is right on in asking the state to impose a min-imum three-day liquor itense sus-pension for licensees who sell alco-hol to minors — even first-time of-fenders. A state-imposed fine of up to \$1,000 can send a strong message, but it doesn't hit the offender bard enough where it hurts most — at the cash resister.

enough where it hurts most — at the cash register.

As Sever put it: "I'm confident none of our residents wish to ever encounter... an 18-year-old who has just drank 24 ounces of beer to be a sever of the sever of the transport of the sever of the transport of the sever of the lecenses are a privilege that aren't to be abused should find another line of work.

be abused should find another line of work.

Want the city council to consider a sidewalk along the major road in your nock of Farmington Hills?
Send your petitions to city manager Bill Costick. He's compling a list of sidewalk requests that council members will consider this fail.
The city's goal is to make it safer to walk near the road edge — and negate having to play Russian roulette.

negate baving to play Russian roulette. Bob Sklar is editor of the Farm-

## Well-guarded Quayle misses out on the fun

Casev

Hans

president into his raft. the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers did one

better - they lowered the water level so the veep could have a nice.

along that route and satisfied every-

Instead of simply helping the vice

THANKFULLY, OUR travel plans did not coincide with Dan Quayle's. We were in for some whilewater fun, while the vice president was merely along for the ride.

An entire posse of Secret Service personnel manned rafts, with Quayle presumably in the middle, as the group traveled down West Virginia's New filters several weeks ago.

The New — Just an hour into the mountains from Charleston to make the control of the mountains from Charleston and post time, as it was last Sunday.

But not when Quayle braved the ley spring waters a few weeks ago. Instead of a simply belping the vice president into his raft, the US. Army Orns of Engineers did one better—they lowered the water level so the veep could have a nice, smooth ride.

"1447% %4!" cried other rafters, upset with the change in plans. "We came for the whitewater!"

Their cries went unheeded. River guides told us water levels were cut nearly in half from what we experienced on Sunday, when waves ranged from 12 to 15 feet.

I CAN'T quite figure out why Quayle went, except that the scenery is beautiful along the New River Gorge. But there's a part of the river that's already calm and serene and demands nothing more than a pleasant and slow float.

Instead of truining the day for several hundred other rafters, he could have taken his Secret Service guests

along that roue and saturate everywhitewater ratting brings someSS million into the state of WestVirginia sealy year, according to acvirginia sealy year, according to action to the state of the state of

QUAYLE CAN'T be blamed total
ly. I'm sure his Secret Service agents
and those in the U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers were rimply iteding of
the control of the control of the control
the to improve the total of the
total of the control
image, however.

There were 17 people in our group
alone — if anyone had taken their
trip on "Dan Guayle Day," many of
them may have chosen not to come
back.

Thankfully, our day included not
of whitewater, 90-degree-plus
weather, and plenty of good times,
Most of the first-timers are ready to
hit a more difficult river this fall.

The river was warm enough to allow ratters to swim a few minor reption of the rait and QUAYLE CAN'T be blamed total-

no river was warm enough to aljow ratters to swim a few minor repids or to just jump out of the rait and
get wet. The weather was perfect for
camping. And everything you exitastes good after a day of fresh air,
hot sun and sometimes tough paddiling.
My guess is that Quayle was
smothered so heavily with guards
making sure he didn't hurt himself,
that he probably had very little forz.
He not only missed whitewater
raiting as it was meant to be, but he
probably missed out on the clear
west Virginia aky and the thousands
of litefiles reaching to touch the
stars.

## Bibeau has been sitting at this table longer than up of you. Competitionwise, if everything is in his favor, he will be sitting there again." Bibeau moved from Brennan, Bibeau & Poelhmann to a larger law firm, Larson, Harms & Wright, about seven months ago. Since then, the city council has been embrolled in legal controversies involving the tree protection and artwork ordinances and a criparty agreement for the new San Marino Golf Course Clubbouse. To Bibeau's credit, the city seems to be winning zoning cases, according to councilman Phil Arnold. A review will show just how well Larson, Harms & Wright stands up under secrulier. A review will show just how well carson, Harms & Wright stands up under secrulier we begin But given this is an election year where five of the seven conneil seats will be filled, final judgment on the city's legal counsel shouldn't be made until after Handicapped parking laws: They're not something to skirt

NOT GOOD TIMING for an aspir-ing politician. Romaey of Bioomfield Hills recently tried to cop a plea on a ticket for nauthorized parting in a handicapped space. Bad in itself, but it also came at a time when all eyes interested in that issue were on

interested in that issue were on Lansing.

And Lansing has responded with new legislation, signed into law last week, which puts more bite into and expands Michigan's handicapped parking laws.

Now the minimum Michigan motorists who park illegally in parking spacer reserved for the handicapped can be fined is up from \$25 to \$50. The maximum fine remains \$100\$. It also punishes those who fake a handicapt och othat necess to the close-by parking with a fine of up to \$100\$. But probably one of the most important things the new law does is

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IN ROMNEY'S case, she was caught by a Troy patrolman. But that probably is the exception. You know yourself how often you see cars without the proper authorization parking in handicapped apaces.

Birmingham may be the exception with the proper authorization parking in handicapped apaces.

Birmingham may be the exception of the property of the prope

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The Heatherwood

Judith Doner Berne

typical. Police Sgt. Mike Madigan acknowledges handicapped viola-tions aren't a high priority. "It they're (officers) busy, it's an after-thought." He estimates that most of the 158 handicapped violations tick-eted last year resulted from citizen call-ins.

call-ins.
However, he's not overjoyed with
the deputizing idea. "You'd have to
screen them carefully."

BUT TROY Republican Sen. Doug Cruce is taking this part of the law into his hands.

Cruce sponsored the bill in the House and led it through the Legisla-ture. Now, his office staff is working on a manual to help police depart-ments train citizens to pass out el-ther warnings or citations for handi-capped violations.

The program is modeled after a successful one in Flint. In Flint, part of that program includes a colorful "Save a Space" coupon, funded by a coalition of community businesses and non-profit groups.

The coupon is both a warning and educational. It says in part: "This coupon has been placed on your vehicle as a courtesy. Parking in this space could have resulted in a \$100 fine." It also contains information on with the property of the coupon of the parking.

Either with a specially assigned police officer or trained citizens, why not bombard a mall or two with enforcement over an intense period just like earmarking a road for a speed trap. You know you slow down when you approach a place where you once got a ticket.

As citizens, you can call for it. Your taxes pay for police who are expowered to enforce all laws. Go to your city council or township board and say you want handicapped parking laws to be enforced—either by the police or through such a citizens watch program.

Judith Doner Berne is Oakland County assistant managing edi-tor for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.





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