

November 9, 2000

LESSONS FROM A VETERAN



I've learned that you can learn every day from your colleagues on the County Commission..... I've learned that you can talk out your thoughts and ideas with the County Attorney and the County Administrator and know that it will be kept in confidence..... I've learned that you can't be entirely responsible for the actions of your Board appointments but you should communicate with them often..... I've learned that you're probably never going to get a decent lunch on Commission meetings days..... I've learned that children and youth will be better citizens if you encourage them to visit you, be a student intern or if you take the role of mentor.... I've learned that the decisions you make should always be ones that let you sleep well each night.... I've learned that it doesn't cost a thing to be nice.... I've learned that your best friend should be your administrative assistant and you have a responsibility to keep her well-informed.... I've learned that most people just want the courtesy of being respectfully listened to.... I've learned that I should never take myself very seriously but I should always take my job seriously.... I've learned that whenever I decide something in kindness, I usually make the right decision.... I've learned that this job is fun and I want to do everything I can to make it a pleasure.... I've learned that I want to keep my priorities straight and remember my health and my family are high priorities.... I've learned that it is a person's right to hold their own view just as you would wish to be respected for your view.... I've learned that it's extremely important while in elected office to play well with others and never run with scissors.... I've learned that generally people have respect for the way you think not your position on a single issue.... I've learned that it's all right to say "I don't know but I'll find out for you".... I've learned that reading good books is a worthwhile use of your time.... I've learned that it's very appropriate to share your knowledge and talent, applying them to your new position.... I've learned that as a Commissioner, you are a leader --- use those leadership skills are an opportunity to accomplish things to make a better community.... I've learned to talk slowly but think quickly.... I've learned that you should trust God but lock you office.... I've learned that you only know your true friends when you lose an election.... I've learned that it is wise to embrace change but don't let go of your values.... I've learned that you'll be better off by giving credit to others than taking it for yourself.... I've learned to pray ---- there's immeasurable power in it.... I've learned that each day you'd be wise to bring your best and share it.... I've learned that there's no such thing as failure if you're working toward

success.... I've learned that its OK to fearlessly ask "dumb" questions.... I've learned that when you do lose, you must not lose the lesson.... I've learned that you should always be candid with the County Administrator and sometimes you need to do that behind closed doors (if you know what I mean).... I've learned that you should be surprised if you are not constantly surprised.... I've learned that if you make your County beautiful, it will be an honor to your judgement.... I've learned that all government really is local and is primarily an institute for change.... I've learned that every great achievement was once considered impossible..... I've learned that a good idea from a scoundrel is still a good idea.... I've learned that a public office is a public trust and your job is to never violate that trust.

Now go forward and lead us into the 21st century,

Sallie Parks