

M.A.L.P. - Merrimon Avenue Liberation Project

Merrimon Avenue was a free street not to long ago. Now, it has come under siege by fellow Ashevilleians presuming to know best how to manage YOUR OWN PROPERTY!

Rather than letting the experts decide how to accommodate your clientele, what kind of “look” your store should have, or even where to put your parking, these decisions are now subject to the consensus of the Asheville community at-large.

This is un-American. America flourished to become a national leader on almost all fronts largely because of its free market economy. With the freedoms guaranteed in our Constitution, people were given the privilege of working as hard as they wanted in the business of their choice. This environment led to prosperity so strong, that in the 1950s and '60s this country was subsidizing the sinking economies of nations who thought centralized government could best regulate business through stiff regulations imposed by political cronies.

A few decades later, as other nations have decided they needed to let up on regulation in order to salvage their economies, America seems to think it can do better by imposing more regulations, requiring entrepreneurs to invest in irrelevant and inconvenient décor, driving up the cost of labor, requiring the hiring of accountants and lawyers, and making it cheaper to do business overseas. Our tottering place in the world economy should speak as strong evidence in support of a freer market.

But far be it from elected officials to study basic economics. What matters is that they get re-elected through touting pipe dreams of guaranteed security, expanding their own power, while simultaneously extricating from us the very liberties that made this land prosperous.

If you own property in Asheville, please take a moment to participate in this quick survey. It is intended to counteract the city's “Merrimon Avenue Land Use/Zoning Study” survey that seeks to put property owners on Merrimon Avenue at the mercy of anybody who wants a voice in micromanaging their property. The results will either indicate that the Spirit of Liberty lives on in the hearts of Ashevilleians, or we are, as a society, lost.

MALP Survey

1. Who knows best how to manage your property?
 - Asheville Councilman Brownie Newman
 - The folks on the other side of town
 - People in Upper Mongolia
 - You, the property owner

2. Who knows best what kind of business you should engage in on your own property?
 - Asheville Councilwoman Robin Cape
 - The folks on the other side of town who have never studied business
 - The folks with an agenda who have gotten their friends together to skew the results of this survey
 - People so naïve as to not understand that the incentives provided by a free market economy are what have made this country's economy so strong
 - You, the property owner

3. Who knows best what size of building you need to conduct the business you have chosen to undertake?
 - Asheville Councilman Bryan Freeborn
 - The other guys on the street

- Senator Hillary Clinton
- The citizens of Denmark
- You, the property owner

4. Mayor Bellamy is a better judge than you, the property owner, on which of the following (Check all that apply.):

- The size and placement of doors and windows on your building
- What kinds of trees and flowers you would like to plant on your property
- How many clients can visit your building at a single time
- Your hours of operation
- The mode of transportation your clients need to use to arrive at your place of business
- How, when and where your suppliers will make deliveries
- Who you need to consult in business matters
- None of the above

5. True or False. You, a property owner in Asheville, possess magical visioning powers that allow you to see how other property owners should conduct their own private business on their own property.

6. True or False. You, the property owner, look forward to the costs of compliance that will come with the regulations other members of the community want to impose on your own property.

7. True or False. Asheville needs to follow the economic lead of fallen Rome and the collapsed Soviet Union in imposing more and more demanding regulations on property owners.

8. You, the property owner, would like to see amendments to the US Constitution to make it legal for the folks on the other side of town regulate which of the following on your private property (Check all that apply).

- Visual quality
- Community feel
- Synergy
- Greenness
- Energy
- Vibrancy
- Diversity
- None of the above

Name _____

Phone _____ email _____

(Your information will be kept private.)

Please return surveys to: LP-Buncombe, PO Box 18851, Asheville, NC 28814
For additional online copies, visit www.LPbuncombe.org & www.MountainGuardian.com

MALP is sponsored by the Libertarian Party of Buncombe County

Thank you, and please encourage your friends to participate in this survey.