

RICHARD LEGREE, Sr. COMMENTS ON COATESVILLE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

COATESVILLE, JUNE 11, 2008- Richard Legree, Sr released the following statement today:

"I am very disappointed by the recent actions of some Republicans in the Coatesville area and Chester County. After some changes in the local area Coatesville committee in the April election, secret back room dealings resulted in my replacement as area chairman of the Coatesville Republicans. It is clear that certain individuals, including prominent lawyers, were behind this move, and that their actions are a prime example of the kind of self-interested power politics that has led to the recent low standing of the Republican party at the local, state and national levels. Instead of acting to benefit the people they were meant to serve, these people have again acted selfishly for their own ends.

"The key part of the local takeover strategy was the election of Eric Brown and Terry Simpson, wife of Coatesville Councilman Ed Simpson, to the local committee. No one even knew that Eric Brown had moved to Coatesville until he showed up as a committee member and worked to unseat me as area chair. His law firm was engaged by the City as special counsel, and then the relationship was severed by the City only a few months later. The firm then brazenly sued City Manager Harry Walker, the City and four of the seven members of City Council. It is very notable that Council member Ed Simpson was not sued, who now appears to be working with Eric Brown and others to displace me.

"This cabal worked in concert with Gabe Milanese, Jr., County chair Skip Brion and County party lawyer Joel Frank to have me removed as area chair. This is clearly a political ploy. I worked with a reform group to cause a net gain of two Republican seats on Council in the 2005 elections. But this group wants control in 2009, so they can go back to the bad old days of exploiting and abusing Coatesville without regard to the best interests of Coatesville residents, Eric Brown is the "point man" for this scheme, and people should be asking who benefits from these maneuvers. Ed Simpson hopes to benefit by restoring "insiders" to power in Coatesville, in hopes they will make him Council President and otherwise boost his political ambitions. All of this has nothing to do with the betterment of Coatesville. Instead, it would cause a return to the "bad old days" of broken promises, tax and spend policies and petty bickering.

"I would like to comment briefly on two other subjects of recent interest, I have been asked about my interest in becoming District Justice after the upcoming age-mandated retirement of the Hon. Robert Davis. I believe such inquiries are speculative and premature, and I have no comment on this subject at this time. I have also been asked whether I plan to leave the Republican party and join the Democrats. Because of my prominence and success in local politics, I have many people asking me for and about many things. However, I have not considered this matter in depth and will not comment further at the moment."