

## **Murszewski, Peter**

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**From:** Bob Halstead <halcar5@optonline.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2013 4:54 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hennessy, Jack; Murszewski, Peter; Rep. Clemons, Charles  
**Subject:** House Bill 5724

To: Steve Cassano, Jason Rojas and Members of the Community and Development Committee

Please consider this my support for the House Bill 5724 that would prohibit City Council Officials from being employed by the municipality they have jurisdiction over.

There is a flagrant conflict of interest where municipalities disallow such practice but the State provides a loophole for them to get around it. This must be eradicated. State elected officials should take into account that a lot of State money comes into Bridgeport and the City Council has a lot of influence on where it goes. Many times it goes into projects in their own interests and employment for their own friends. By voting to pass HB 5724, we can finally get on the road to ending this practice.

Elected officials in Bridgeport have jurisdiction over the City budget and as many as 3/4 of serving members are either City employees or have immediate family who are City employees. Many of these employees also have authority or political influence to hire or have promoted other politically connected people or relatives who are not qualified and have political agendas. This is very bad for the City of Bridgeport or any City. I have witnessed an unproductive, political atmosphere that drives the work culture in the City. There is a lot of fear of insecure, unqualified supervisors. In other cases, political appointments act as henchmen to punish those for exercising their constitutional rights of free speech. The City of Bridgeport residents do not get served well.

I have also witnessed on too many occasions, City Council people doing mostly political business throughout the day when they are supposed to be attending to the needs of the City, setting vision and goals for their departments and supervising their subordinates. This is seriously harmful to my City

Please pass Representative Hennessy's House Bill

Thank you  
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