

# It's one thing when you lie to an enemy, quite another when you lie to a friend

*Patrick Collins lied to one who still respects him, Jack Spiker*

It has long been held that a relationship between friends is special. The bonds are strongest between friends who can trust one another.

Broken bonds between friends is usually irreparable because trust cannot be restored. At least to the earlier level.

When I recently met with Jack Spiker to discuss his decision to not seek a third term as Cheyenne's mayor but to run for city council from his ward, I questioned him at length about what might be truly happening, not just what he had put out for public consumption.

My prediction, upon Jack's first announcement, and it was shared by many others in the city, was that Jack, Patrick Collins and Tom Segrave intended to attempt a Joe Meyer/Max Maxfield musical-chairs-with-elective-office menage a trois. (*A menage a trois is "a three-way relationship, some explicitly sexual and others more ambiguous and complex."*)

Jack repeatedly told me, and I believed him, that both Patrick Collins and Tom Segrave had assured him that neither would run for any elective office in 2008.

That both of them would run not for city council again seemed believable. First, because they couldn't be sure both could beat Jack Spiker in an election and, conversely, Jack Spiker would not challenge both of them in such a contest.

That question was specifically posed to Jack. Asked if he would have filed if he knew Patrick and Tom were going to seek a third term, he, without equivocation said, "No." He would not challenge them.

Again, that's partially because he has come to be airtight political allies with the two who despised him and worked against his first election as mayor. In fact, Patrick Collins arranged illegal campaign contributions to two of Jack's opponents in the 2000 mayoral primary.

To give money to one opponent shows displeasure. To give money to two so your enemy does not survive the primary is disdain and the height of disrespect.

As time has evolved since that 2000 election, Segrave, Collins and Spiker have become inseparable. Attached at the vote, as it were.

Beyond their seats on the city council, Segrave and Collins are fast friends outside the chambers.

So, one running without the other also seemed illogical.

And Jack was, at our meeting, absolutely convinced that the two guys had told him the truth - that they would not run for either mayor or city council in 2008.

Sometimes you have to fudge the truth a bit when dealing with an enemy - throw

them off guard, if you will. When you're being waterboarded, you tell the one with the upper hand and the water whatever you think will end the torture.

But, Patrick Collins was not being waterboarded. He was in conversation with a friend - with a political ally he had grown to love. Not just like, but love.

So, why did he lie to Jack Spiker about running for city council? Telling him the truth wouldn't have changed his (Jack) plans. Unless, of course, Jack would have assessed the potential of Segrave also running if Collins did the same way many of us had. Then, it would have affected Jack's decision in a profound way.

Then, Jack probably would have doubted the truthfulness of Patrick Collins. No one would expect him to want to serve on city council without his running mate and certain vote, Tom Segrave.

But, why lie when the truth would have done? Some people are more comfortable with lies than the truth but Patrick has never seemed like one of those kind.

Or, was Jack lying to me?

Was he lying to me when he told me over and over that Segrave and Collins had assured him they would not run for any office in 2008? I don't think so, but I've not proven to be the best judge of all people in politics.

I think I'm a pretty good judge of a candidate's character until they're elected. Then, not so good. Because, as I've often written on these pages, the office makes the man - not the reverse. The trappings of office have led many to change long-held positions and throw away friendships for political expediency.

It usually doesn't take long before the friend who lied to you is no longer your friend. By your choice. An uneasy relationship may survive but once you cannot trust the guy to be honest with you, friendship ends. A tolerance may survive.

Obviously, Patrick Collins had the right to change his mind. After all, many who are elected change their minds about their campaign promises. Why should Patrick be held to a higher standard? He's the same guy who made illegal campaign contributions (which had to be returned) to defeat Jack Spiker in 2000. A friend?



## John B. Culotta

City Council Candidate - Ward 2

*I am John Culotta. I have been married 31 years. My wife and I have two daughters and three grandchildren. I have been in business in Cheyenne for almost 20 years.*

**Ready, Fire, Aim** is not a progressive way to run a City. The City needs to be run in a business-like fashion that anybody can understand.

*If elected, I will work to:*

- Restore confidence in the City Council.
- Make sure that we are competently managing what we have.
- Restore transparency in Government.

**I want to restore confidence in the City Council by:** 1.) Maintaining a higher standard when representing others and their money - not lower; 2.) Doing something we haven't seen in a while - finding out what people really want; and, 3.) Doing the due diligence that reasonable people expect.

**I want to make sure that we are competently managing what we have by:** 1.) Maintaining the roads, the landfill, and the water system - and not just at election time; 2.) Examining the budget with extreme care; 3.) Making sure that our growth is sustainable and manageable; and, 4.) Working toward a more energy-efficient City.

**I want to restore transparency in Government by:** 1.) Making sure there are proper presentations at the council; 2.) Asking logical and thorough questions and getting complete answers; 3.) Making sure all City plans and policies are open; 4.) Minimizing the use of outside consultants by using local talent; and, 5.) Making sure that the people are fully informed of any proposed changes.

**This is a great City, let's restore it and keep it that way.**

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