

Letter: Cheers court decision against city on building heights

Published: September 25, 2014 12:00AM

Summit Coun-

ty Judge Amy Corrigall Jones ordered that "A change in the height regulations without requiring a vote by the electorate is a violation of Charter 7A.01 which reserves to the voters of Twinsburg the final say in legislative zoning power."

It is obvious that the courts and resident plaintiff Sally Gaydosh understand clearly what Law Director David Maistros, Planning and Development Director Larry Finch (along with the seemingly mindless compliance of seven City Councilors) do not: That the citizens of Twinsburg have reserved unto themselves the right to vote on zoning district regulations referenced in section 7A.01 of the charter.

For more than a decade, Gaydosh and her attorney Warner Mendenhall have been victorious in the courts because of their understanding and unsurpassed knowledge of 7A.01, which mandates ultimately a vote of the people for changes to the regulations.

The court has rightly upheld Gaydosh's claims under the law; that Ordinance 97-2012, unanimously approved by City Council, signed by Mayor Katherine Procop and Council President Ted Yates, and as prepared by Maistros with the support of Finch, does in fact require a vote of the people.

The question in my mind is why have our city leaders on multiple occasions repeatedly denied the people a right to vote on zoning legislation? When there is ambiguity, why not just let the people vote? Can there be any doubt that it is time for a change in city leadership after yet another unfavorable court ruling?

It is time again for the citizens of Twinsburg to defend the right to vote for zoning districts as provided in charter section 7A.01, as voters have repeatedly done since 1989, and vote 'no' on Issue 41 Nov. 4. We need to keep Twinsburg the unique community we all love.

Loren Sengstock, Twinsburg