

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR, COUNCIL & COUNCIL ELECT

FROM: FRANCES SHORT, COUNCIL MEMBER

RE: "BREAKING TRADITION"

DATE: APRIL 6, 1992

I would like to make a statement concerning the impending selection of the new vice mayor. The four new members of the Council were elected on the basis that the City Council needed more diversity of perspective in its representation. Now, they and the Mayor, who appear to share similar views on many issues, seem to be ganging up to break tradition and deny the position of vice mayor to the Council's only Native American, a person whose popularity has been proven. For them to claim that they better represent Flagstaff citizens than Joe Washington is to ignore all those people who voted for Joe. Such a claim is egotistical and presumptuous.

To those who support him, Joe Washington is by no means a single issue or limited constituency candidate. He is an untiring spokesperson for fiscal responsibility, honesty and openness in government, and sane community development. His background, training, experience, and capacities equal those of anyone on the Council. To by-pass him for one with less or even no council experience is absurd and irresponsible.

This may be my last meeting in a short term as a City Council person but it will not be the last time my voice is heard when the Council appears to act high handedly against the will of the people and principles of moral government. I make this statement as one of my final council contributions in full faith that Phil Schafer, whose term I have filled out and whose memory I honor above all, would agree with everything I have said.