

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Press Release – November 1, 2013

SMART ASKS THE PEOPLE NOT TO PRE-JUDGE UNTIL ALL OF THE FACTS ARE OUT AND THE PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED

Statement by Alderman Michael Smart- Nov. 1, 2013

Ms. Cynthia Britt, a constituent and neighbor of mine, asked that we address the misquote which appeared in today's New Haven Register. (Read her attached statement).

I would like to briefly say that each of the candidates for citywide office rewas given 100 absentee ballot applications by the City/Town Clerk's office to distribute to constituents. Which were distributed to the residents in the city; mostly elderly and disabled, who have requested them. That is all. I have followed the letter-of-the-law in this regard and engaged in absolutely no improper activity.

I must say that I do find it interesting that after 10 years as a **DO NOTHING NO-SHOW City/Town Clerk, Ron Smith, my opponent** in next week's election for City/Town Clerk has suddenly burst into the media spotlight to claim absentee ballot fraud in Ward 8; the Ward that I have proudly served and represented for 10 years on the Board of Aldermen. **"That is quite a coincidence, isn't it?"**

As someone who is deeply committed to an honest and transparent government and who has always fought and served the people of this great city with integrity and passion, I look forward to a full investigation of this matter, and of course, I will cooperate fully and I will reserve any further comment until the investigation has been completed.