

Colleagues:

You have before you a resolution asking you to sponsor a prescription program of by CVS/Caremark. They are asking to the the SOLE DISCOUNT PROGRAM OF WASHTENAW COUNTY. It is claimed by the sponsors of the resolution that only good and only consumer savings can come as a result of the County contracting with CVS/Caremark to make their prescription discount the discount of Washtenaw County. What you are being asked by the resolution is to put the good name of Washtenaw County as a sponsor of the aforementioned prescription program.

I am on record as opposing this move.

I do not want the name of the county associated with a company who has been convicted of violating HIPPA, switching customers to a higher priced medications and who has been fined for practices in restraint of trade.

It is true that CVS has paid its fines amounting to many millions of dollars and therefore, in these instances is free to go about its business of retail drug sales and the business of supplying pharmaceuticals to the US military. However, there are other current considerations that are of concern to me.

Presently, CVS /Caremark is being investigated by the FTC for “Unfair Business Practices.” The FTC as a matter of policy will not reveal the specifics of the investigation. And while it is true in this country that no one and no company is guilty until proven to be so, one must give pause that again there are allegations about their business practices serious enough to warrant the FTC investigation

In addition to my concerns about the business practices of CVS/Caremark is the fact that should the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners wish to contract with a firm to provide consumer discounts, then a Request for Proposals should have been issued by our Purchasing Department. My colleague, Commissioner Judge states that the BOC need not do this as the prescription card offered by the Washtenaw Health plan was not voted upon by the BOC nor was there an RFP to select this provider. Let me set the record straight: the WHP is a separate entity. It has its own board of directors. And secondly, an RFP was issued before a provider was selected. The WCHo also selects and formulary to supply its medications and issues a RFP in order to select the best supplier.

I am not against medication discounts for our citizens. I just want to deal fairly when we contract and give all who could supply this service a chance to do so. I then I would investigate the integrity and track record of each bidder

Ms. Judges sent out of list of law suits and claims against companies with which we do business and states that we have a tradition of doing business with entities that have been sued. This is true. However, if we did not do business with any company who lost a lawsuit, we might have become a self-sustaining farming commission and produce all our goods and services, but that is not the issue. The issue is that we have been asked by this resolution to place our imprimatur on an contract granting the exclusive right to a firm of questionable reputation say that they are sponsored by Washtenaw County to sell discount drugs and dog medications in this county. Did we ask local veterinarians if they would be willing to supply pet drugs at a discount? Did we notify them of a RFP or PFQ?

Ms. Judge rightly states that both NACO and Oakland County have sponsored this card in question. I have asked my Hedger to investigate the due diligence of both of the entities. I do not yield the floor, but pause to ask Mr. Hedger what he has found.

Ms. Judge says that she as found that the independent pharmacy which I patronize was compelled only in the case of a CVS insurance policy to insist that the script in question be filled by mail. Is she familiar with all the contracts with CVS that are held by my pharmacy? They have several. I question her authority on this matter.

CVS is not in this discount game for fun or charity. They want an exclusive contract with Washtenaw County. They will make \$.85 on every script filled by cardholders/coupon holders They also will ask the county to fund any outreach beyond that deemed sufficient by and supplied by the CVS Corporation . What a deal they are asking us for! In fairness, they offer some part of this to contracted pharmacies who fill scripts. Why don't they just give everyone an \$.85 cent discount on any drug they distribute? And why don't they just discount the drugs they supply to the drugstores who retail them?

Finally, Ms. Judge has accused those who oppose signing this contract of actively depriving Washtenaw County Resident to \$30.000 in savings in the year since the idea of this discount program was first brought to this board. I am curious about both the formula used to create this number and the data used to arrive at this number with such certainty.

If after all of this, you are still willing to vote for this sponsorship of this corporation, giving them the exclusive right to be the SOLE DRUG DISCOUNTER OF Washtenaw County why not wait for the outcome of the CVS hearings? If you vote to contract with

CVS you are voting to put your good name on a contract with a firm which has previously been heavily fine for illegal practices and which again is being investigated.

I will not lend my good name to the profits of such as corporation as CVS/Caremark and hope that you will think carefully before lending yours.