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## (7/29/09): What Does Cincinnati Mayor Mallory and Pinocchio Have in Common?

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Cincinnati NAACP

Media Release

What does Cincinnati Mayor Mallory and Pinocchio have in common? They both have problems telling the truth. The Cincinnati NAACP would like to welcome Mayor Mark Mallory back from Portland, Oregon by way of Japan to a city budget that is falling apart.

**MYTH:** Mayor Mallory states in the paper today, "If that measure passes, it's the end of streetcars in Cincinnati, it will be the end of the conversation about light rail, it will be the end of the conversation about passenger rail between Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland," a combative Mallory said at a City Hall news conference. "It will effectively be the end of passenger rail in and out of the city of Cincinnati. It would be a disaster for us in terms of mass transit."

**REALITY:** The Charter Amendment will end the special interest back room deals that Mayor Mark Mallory is cutting with certain groups. The Charter Amendment will force the Mayor to discuss his plans with the citizens of Cincinnati before implementation. The Charter Amendment will end the possible conflicts of interest such as Council Members Bortz and Berding on development projects that benefit them personally. The Charter Amendment forces the politicians to ask for a vote before they spend our tax money on poor plans like the streetcar. If the Cincinnati NAACP and partners had not collected signatures since December with 70% of citizens against the streetcar project the Mayor and Council would move forward with the project anyway. "The Mayor and City Council are not listening to the citizens that voted them into office therefore we have petitioned our government in a democratic and legal process to give citizens the right to vote" Smitherman says.

This notion that progress will be stopped by giving Cincinnatians the right to vote is Un-American. The notion that the Cincinnati NAACP petitioning the government stops progress tramples on the legacy African Americans have experienced in this country with exclusion from the entire political process. "The Mayor and City Council do not understand that a political revolution in Cincinnati has started. Citizens do not want to get stuck with a streetcar deal that looks like Paul Brown Stadium. My grandfathers who were from Alabama did not have the same opportunity to petition their government while they were alive. I am positive that Grand-daddy Otis and Papa James are proud that their grandson as an American has the right to petition their government" Smitherman says.