



John Barth for Council

Letter to the Editor (submitted to the Indianapolis Star 10/2/11)
Response to Mayor Ballard's Position on Georgia Street
Votebarth.com

Grassroots up, not bottom down

We're renaming Georgia Street. We're not renaming Georgia Street. We might be renaming Georgia Street, and we're building dozens of statues of famous Hoosiers - what do you think? I don't know about you, but in the past few weeks, the mayor seems to be going back and forth like a tennis ball between Venus and Serena.

First an outcry came over renaming Georgia Street. Now the mayor says that's on hold, but he announced plans for a new downtown focal point including statues of famous Hoosiers - and now that he's made that decision, he wants your input - not on the concept - just on who should get a statue.

He's got it backwards. It's a pattern with this administration. They announce first and ask for input afterwards. That's not how it should work. Developing a downtown focal point that will attract visitors and locals alike, and be an asset long after the Super Bowl is over, is a great idea. It would be even greater if the Mayor asked residents and businesses for input on what the new Georgia Street corridor should include – before he makes his mind up and then lets you give “input.” As of now, you may get to “vote” on who should have a statue.

Let's have a community conversation about adding a new feature to our downtown. Grassroots up, not bottom down.