

Budgeting policy affects accountability

By Margaret Goodwin

Letters To The Editor

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<http://www.thedailycourier.com/articles/2016/05/28/letters/news000002.txt>

Reviewed

I submitted a guest opinion to the Daily Courier about a change in county budget policy from budgeting for outcomes to status quo budgeting.

I believe it's important for the public to know about this because budget policy has a profound impact on the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of local government.

The Courier did not publish the guest opinion, but instead published an article beginning with the ugly and inflammatory mischaracterization that I was "lashing out" at my colleagues on the budget committee.

I did not say anything, either in the guest opinion or in my conversations with the reporter, against any member of the budget committee. I quoted Cheryl Walker in the guest opinion and I quoted Simon Hare in a discussion with the reporter, but I did not make any personal attacks.

Had the Courier printed my guest opinion, the readers could have interpreted for themselves whether I was "lashing out" or simply making a case for one budget policy over another.

The decision not to print the guest opinion, and to print only a reporter's inflammatory interpretation of it, does a disservice to the Courier's readers.

MARGARET GOODWIN

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