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## **Mell Monroe Challenges Pat Dowell To Halt Vandalism in 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Race**

Mell Monroe, a candidate for Third Ward Alderman, said today that he has photographic evidence and eye-witness testimony that clearly indicates that another Third Ward candidate, Pat Dowell, has hired or engaged an attorney from outside the ward to tear down and destroy his campaign signs.

“This vandalism is the kind of hooligan behavior I would expect from incumbent Alderman Dorothy Tillman,” Monroe said. “I didn’t expect Pat Dowell, who calls herself a reformer, to allow her agent to engage in illegal dirty tricks.”

Monroe said that shortly before noon on Saturday, Jan. 13, a tan 1998 Dodge Caravan pulled up in front of a six flat condo at 4346 S. Indiana Ave., Chicago. A woman emerged, grabbed a Mell Monroe yard sign and ripped it out of the ground. She then opened up the back hatch of the tan van and piled the sign in on top of several other red and blue Monroe signs.

Beulah Jones, the condo owner, and a visitor were looking out of the front window when this happened. “We banged on the window and yelled for the perpetrator to stop. She didn’t but fortunately we were able to jot down the license plate before the van sped off,” Ms. Jones said.

Ms. Jones then called the police; told the officer what happened and gave them the Illinois license number of the tan van: ATTY LAW.

Later that day, Monroe and his campaign manager, Ira Williams, drove to Pat Dowell’s campaign office, at 325 W. 47<sup>th</sup> St. Parked on Shields St. adjacent to Dowell’s office was the tan van with the licence plate: ATTY LAW.

The license is registered to Audrey Wade at 8550 S. Stoney Island, Chicago IL 60617. Audrey Wade is Pat Dowell’s campaign manager and an attorney specializing in real estate law and new construction. (See the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary website at [www. iardc.org](http://www.iardc.org) and Sullivan’s Law Directory 2000-2001.)

( More )

## Sign Snatching/ P 2

“We have iron-clad evidence of this one sign snatching plus the pile of Monroe signs in Wade’s tan van,” Monroe said, “but in the past two weeks, more than 650 of my signs have been removed from high-traffic areas in the Ward. Audrey Wade may be operating as a Lone Ranger, or she may be the leader of a concerted Pat Dowell effort to destroy my signs. Whichever it is, it must be stopped.”

“Beyond the police complaint, we are considering what further action we might take,” Monroe said. “I think vandalism and campaign hooliganism is unethical and unprofessional behavior for an attorney. In addition there is theft and a deliberate attempt to interfere with Ms. Jones’ right to freely participate in an election, to express her support and to communicate with her neighbors.”

“I don’t know if we will press for prosecution or professional disciplinary action,” Monroe said. “But I know that the voters in the Third Ward are fed up with bullying, illegal and hoodlum behavior. For years we had to put up with Dorothy Tillman waving a gun at a community meeting, threatening contributors over the phone and throwing news reporters out of her office. We now see that Pat Dowell’s team appears to be marching to Tillman’s tune.

“I urge Ms. Dowell to disavow Attorney Wade’s vandalism, return my signs, pay restitution of \$2,275 for the 650 signs, apologize and refrain from any further dirty campaigning.”