Throughout the history of the United States, participation, information, and knowledge have empowered society to build well-defined ideals of freedom, rights, equality, and progress. It has become the citizens’ duty to cultivate and protect those ideals because they identify perfectly the goals of our founding principles. A true commitment to these democratic ideals was initiated in the United states. And, every American has witnessed the effects of this commitment in our communities.

Democracy in America is too broad to be defined by just personal partisan views as it is common today. Democracy is more than that. Every community in America experiences the democratic adventure in very different ways. Ideally, these differences in democratic experiences should add up to convert the regular citizen into a participant and practitioner of democratic ideals representing the vision and goals of the community where she/he resides.

The city of Bethlehem, PA will be analyzed to define democratic indicators that will reflect the health or illness of democracy. Demography, economy health, community, organizations, religion, education, city’s government, and the press will be connected with democratic concepts found in the work of Ronald J. Terchek and Thomas C. Conte "THEORIES of DEMOCRACY."

Bethlehem is a city in eastern Pennsylvania, United States. It lies in Northampton and Lehigh Counties. Bethlehem borders with the cities of Allentown and Easton and is part of the greater Lehigh Valley community. The city government is formed by a Mayor, John Callahan, and the City Council which is the legislative body of the city and has seven members. Both, Mayor and Council are elected to four years terms and are determined by citywide elections. (Pg 1 of 1 www.bethlehem-pa.gov/city). Geographically, Bethlehem is a well-defined city. Its land
area, 2000, in square miles is 19 and persons per square mile, 2000, was 3,704.4. The estimated population in July 1, 2003 was 72,570. (Pg 2 U.S. Bureau of the Census used by Lehigh Valley Planing Commission).

Demographic facts of importance here are the white persons, percent is 81.8%, black or African American persons percent is 3.6%, and persons of Hispanic or Latino origin percent is 18.2% . (Pg 1 QuickFacts from the US census Bureau). Based on this data, it can be stated that the white population has a greater opportunity of being well represented in the city of Bethlehem’s government than the minorities. Evidence of this is the membership of City Council. Of the seven council members, only one is not a white American; it is Hispanic.

Benjamin Barber’s work, *Strong Democracy*, provides a good interpretation of this lack of fair representation in a government. “Citizens become subject to laws they did not truly participate in making; they become the passive constituents of representatives who, far from reconstituting the citizens’ aims and interests, usurp their civic functions and deflect their civic energies.”(pp. 172 Barber).

It is fair to clarify that minorities’ lack of representation is not a product of just the racial composition of the city. The economic health of the city may influence in a very high degree whether minority groups chose to participate in democracy. Here, it is very important to take into account the warning coming from John Stuart Mill. When material self-interest and pleasure become the most important thing in the life of citizens, they will lose their liberty as well as control of their own roles in popular government. (pp. 6 Terchek and Conte). Today, job opportunities, rather than political interests is the major concern for minorities. And, the Bethlehem area provides good economic incentives for this to happen. An evidence of this is the
forecast of employment by place of work in Lehigh and Northampton Counties. Bethlehem is placed within, for the year 2005. Total employment will be of 327,600 with manufacturing providing 45,725, non-manufacturing 248,020, government 32,391, and farming 1,464. (Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Remy 2000 Economic Model). The largest employers in Bethlehem are Lehigh Hospital and Health Network with an estimated number of employees of 7,500, St. Luke’s Hospital with 6,000 employees, Air Products & Chemicals with 4,300 employees, and Giant Food Inc. with 2,006 employees. (The Morning Call and Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation). Good incomes are also prevalent in the city. The median household income, 1999, was $35,815 compared to Pennsylvania’s income which was $40,106. (Pg1 Quickfacts from the U.S. Census Bureau). As a result of this economic self-interest, a Performance Democracy is prevalent. “...people think in instrumental methods, and it is not surprising that they bring personal, utilitarian standards to politics. In this setting, voters do not pay attention to what they share to other citizens...” (pp. 141 Terchek and Conte).

Although offering good employment prospects, positive economic factors in Bethlehem City do not define the democratic health of the city. Rather, a postmodern problem is identified. The effect of having the pressure of establishing a good economic stability and maintain it, to support a family, without looking at the community is expressed by Michel Foucault and his work *Power/Knowledge*. “This economic functionality is present to the extent that power is conceived primarily in terms of the role it plays in the maintenance simultaneously of the relations of production and of class domination.” (Pg 203 Foucault). However, an economic relation and interdependency, which are at the center of our successful capitalist system, does not undercut the democratic efforts of a community. What really diminishes democracy is the
consumerism attitude that alienates citizens to think that to buy is to make one happy. There is not time to think in our civic duties of democratic involvement and we walk away from what is really needed to think about politics “... a theory of the subject as a decentered, detotalize agent ...” (pg 225 Mouffe) The representative principle in this consumerism environment Barber says is very difficult to make reality because “In the absence of community, equality is a fiction that not merely divides as easily as it unites but that raises the specter of a mass society made up of indistinguishable consumer clones.” (Pg 171 Barber).

Clearly related to demographics and the economic health of the city of Bethlehem are the social problems. The city’s attention to these will reveal the government’s commitment to its citizens producing an important democratic indicator. Here, it is important to remember that in a good state, Jean-Jacques Rosseau says, “... public affairs encroach on private in the minds of citizens. Private affairs are even of much less importance, because the aggregated of the common happiness furnishes a greater proportion of that of each individual, ...” (Pg 71 Rosseau). In a healthy democracy, public needs must be the concern of society and, at the same time, the city government. However, this concept is starting to decay in the city of Bethlehem. The Housing Authority which is an agency of the city’s government is not being able to guarantee no-cost services to families of low-income. This, for sure, will have a tremendous impact on poor people who see city’s housing as the only manifestation of good government and democracy.

The article City authority may bill tenants for repairs by Josh Drobnick of the Morning Call, identifies the problems of the city agency. “For the second straight year, the Housing Authority expects to run more than a 1.5 million deficit in 2005-06." It has been suggested, “a
more aggressive enforcement of the rule to charge tenants $30 to fix a blocked drain.” Executive
director Clara Kendy said “The tenants are going to be touched first by this and then by other
things that are going to change. They’ve got to be aware of what we are facing” (B1 The
Morning Call 3/18/05). Problems with the city’s agency do not end here, “utilities are expected
cost the authority more than 2 million in 2005-06” (B2 The Morning Call 3/18/05).

It is noticeable that city’s government has been hit hard by recent economic downturns in
the country. But, the commitment of city’s government to its low income families should
continue to be the same. The city needs to keep the same quality of life that citizens have
enjoyed so far because the city’s image and welfare is at stake.

But, what are the effects of allowing the city government to take control of public
matters. Here, it is important to remember that low income families become a minority and a
protective democracy takes place. Frederick A. Hayek, and his work The Political Order of a
Free People, reflect on this concern. The members of a legislature “will normally merely agree
to something being given to others about who they know little, and usually at the expense of
third groups, . .” (pp 98 Hayek). The legislature of the city of Bethlehem is agreeing to the
demands of the city housing without recognizing the ways low income families are going to be
affected by new housing rules. Any money amount, even a small one, is going to put pressure on
these families. “The price which has to be paid for the commitment of the few is often the
indifference of the many.”(pp. 192 Bobbio).

Consequently, a negotiation among interest groups takes place in this environment.
“Each group will be prepared to consent even to iniquitous benefits for other groups out of the
common purse, . .”(pp 98 Hayek). Minorities in Bethlehem are likely to lose in this negotiation.
However, “under the existing system, every small interest group can enforce its demands, not by persuading a majority that the demands are just or equitable, but by threatening to withhold that support which the nucleus of agreed individuals will need to become a majority.” (pp 98 Hayek).

Low income families should be aware of the power of coming together and talk with a single voice to influence city’s agencies decisions. The power of the vote can unite them to become a big constituent. This is an indicator of a healthy democracy.

On the other side of the spectrum, there are clear instances in which it is possible to see a city government/community association that results highly beneficial for the welfare of the city. This relationship will show that “the aggregate of the common happiness furnishes a great proportion of each individual” (pp. 71 Rousseau). The article *First resident moves into updated Bethlehem building* by Chuck Ayers describe how teamwork to revitalize the south side of the city is paying off. “After forming the South Bethlehem Development Coalition in 1998, Chairwoman Anne Evans and other members were awarded a grant of $500,000 from the First Union Foundation to get the project started. The group later receive a $750,000 Community Development Block Grant from the city for the building’s reconstruction” This kind of relationship produces a very important outcome, the power of association that will contribute to the health of democracy. Alexis de Toqueville describes the unique significance of this democratic element in America when he says, “In the United States, associations are established to promote public order, commerce, industry, morality, and religion; for there is no end which the human will, seconded by the collective exertions of individuals, despairs of attaining.”(pp. 27 Toqueville). The “power of meeting” provides a very important sense of democratic purpose because “when an association is allowed to establish centers of action at certain points in the
country, its activity is increased and its influenced extended. Men have the opportunity of seeing each other; means of execution are more readily combined; and opinions are maintained with a degree of warmth and energy which written language cannot approach.” (pp 28 Toqueville).

In Bethlehem, associations, commonly identify as organizations, are part of the array of features that give the city modernity and diversity. The areas of economy and security show the important city/government association. The city’s Office of Economic Development “encourages business location, expansion through technical, site selection assistance, and financial programs. The Office serves as liaison with federal, state, and city officials on behalf of citizens.” (www.bethlehem-pa.gov/eco/) The Bethlehem police department “is structure using the community policing philosophy and is committed to community and police partnership” (www.bethlehem-pa.gov/police/). Apart from these important associations, there are 26 clubs and organizations in the city of Bethlehem. The variety runs from health issues such as Visual Impairment & Blindness and Heart Association-Northeastern, labor such as Cement Employers Association, sports such as Saucon Sports Association and Lynn’s Athletic Assn, economic such as Bethlehem Area Chamber of Commerce and Lehigh Valley Business, minority such as Council Spanish Speaking Inc, politics such as Tammany Democratic Association, and traditional like the Lions Club. (www.ilovebethlehem.com).

In this important area of associations, it is worth to give particular attention to an organization that is trying to preserve the unique historical identity of the city of Bethlehem. The Historic Bethlehem Partnership operates to preserve important buildings and sites, irreplaceable artifacts, and written documents that help to explain the changes that occurred in Bethlehem first 250 years. (www.historicbethlehem.org/). The power of meeting might carry with it unique and
noble goals that brings cultural benefits for the whole community. History is a very important part of our identity as Americans and we need to transmit this message to future generations.

It is to be expected that every American feels confident about the creation of organizations because they provide a secure and enjoyable method of sharing ideas and views with people that think alike. But, it is also very important to identify the negative effects of organizations in a democracy because common individual interests are likely to displace community’s interests.

Robert Dahl and his work *Dilemmas of a Pluralist Democracy* reflects on the democratic limitations brought by organizations. “Independent organizations exist in all democratic countries, consequently, the problem of democratic pluralism is a universal problem in modern democracy” (pp. 131 Dahl). They bring a tension/pressure between the relations of city and its citizens. “When organizations are not broadly inclusive in their membership, political inequality is a likely consequence, for, other things being equal, the organized are more influential than a equivalent of unorganized citizens.”(pp 138 Dahl). Norberto Bobbio extends this argument against organizations in a very powerful way in his work *The Future of Democracy*:

“. . . it is less and less the individual who is the most influential factor in politics and more and more it is the group: large organizations, associations of all kinds, trade unions of every conceivable profession, political parties of widely differing ideologies. Groups and not individuals are the protagonist of political life in a democratic society: there is not longer one sovereign power, namely the people or nation, composed of individuals who have acquired the right to participate directly or indirectly in government, the people conceived as an ideal (or mystical) unit” (pp. 190 Bobbio).

However, to be completely fair about the essential influence of organizations, this analysis has to agree with the acknowledgment made by Robert Dahl: “the introduction of
democratic processes into the government of a country and the enforcement of rights required if
democratic procedures are to be effectively protected make it possible and advantageous for
various groups to form autonomous organizations. Because organizations are possible and
advantageous, they are also inevitable.”(pp. 137 Dahl). And, this is the case in the city of
Bethlehem. Organizations have been able to reach community by initiating economic programs,
charity rallies, preservation movements, and tutoring. Thank to these organizations, citizens in
Bethlehem can feel confident that they can associate among themselves.

In this extensive acknowledging of the importance of organizations in a democratic
society, it is obvious the need to identify the church as one of the most influential. Alexis
Toqueville defines very well the important role of the church when he says: “The sects which
exist in the United States are innumerable. They all differ in respect to the worship which is due
from man to his creator; but they all agree in respect to the duties which are due from man to
man.”(pp 30 Toqueville). He keeps defining this important role, “They keep aloof from parties,
and from public affairs. In the United States religion exercises but little influence upon the laws,
and upon the details of public opinion; but it directs the manners of the community, and by
regulating domestic life, it regulates the State.”(pp. 31 Toqueville).

There are 89 churches in the city of Bethlehem. (pp. 79, 80, 81 Bethlehem’s Yellow
Pages). A good example of these institutions is the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem founded
125 years ago. It is the church in 14 counties of eastern and northeastern Pennsylvania
containing 68 congregations which include some 18,000 members. The Diocesan community is
collectively involved in the development of ministries with children and with the poor. (pp. 1
www.diobeth.org/description.html) In the city of Bethlehem, the church has come to
symbolize the force of unity and solidarity. Church attendance is a very distinctive and special way to assess this unity with others. The high number of church congregations may be considered an indicator of a healthy democracy in the fact that they are able to provide people a refuge and break from the daily pressures of work and life in general. Church allows its participants to think about faith, hope, peace, and fellowship in a very special way; and this attribute cannot be found in any other institution.

So far, this analysis has covered very important areas that add up to become manifestations of democratic elements needed in a city. Population, economic indicators, economic and social link between city’s government and citizens, organizations following the same link, and the local influence of churches are elements that describe a modern city going through a rapid transformation due to the diversity of race, social and economic interest, and faith. However, it is necessary to define the element that gives every member in the community the understanding and motivation to participate not only in the solution of social issues that may fulfill their self-interest; but, also in city’s affairs that may benefit the community as a whole.

Education becomes the basis of democracy. Citizens of Bethlehem need to have a good education in order to guarantee the well being of society. The threat of ignorance is manifested by Horace Mann and his work *The Necessity of Education in a Republican Government*. “A merely ignorant man has no skill in adapting means to ends, whereby to jeopard the welfare of great interest or great numbers. Ignorance is a blackness; or at most, a lifeness, inert mass, which can, indeed, be moved and place where you please, but will stay where it is placed.”(pp. 81 Mann). It can be said that our nation has understood that “there is no security for a republic but in morality and intelligence.” That, we are “created and brought into life with a set of innate,
organic dispositions or propensities, which a free government rouses and invigorates,. .”(pp79 Mann). In this sense, it is necessary to recognize the efforts of the city of Bethlehem to make public education the foundation rock of a prosperous community. The Bethlehem Area School District (BASD) serves over 14,800 students in the city. Sixteen elementary schools, four middle schools, and two high schools provide a consistent district-wide curriculum. (http://www.beth.k12.pa.us/). At the elementary level schools range in size from 230 to 650; and, they are encouraged to tailor their programs to need the needs of children in their communities. The middle schools emphasize building positive self-concept offering opportunities for a wide range of social experiences and providing opportunities to develop skills to collect and evaluate information. The two large high schools provide advance placement, academic and applied programs; a regional vocational-technical school provides additional opportunities to split the school day. (http://www.beth.k12.pa.us/). The degree of accountability toward the BASD is provide by the application of the No Child Left Behind federal program. This federal education law requires the state, school districts, and individuals schools to meet specific achievement targets in math and reading. For PA in the year 2003, these targets were 45% in reading and 35% in math. (http://www.beth.k12.pa.us/documents/2003/). This legislation also mandates the creation of yearly report card by the school district. The report card of the Liberty High School for the year 2003 was 31% in reading compare to the achievement target that was 45%. Student proficiency in math was 22.3% compare to the achievement target that was 35%. (www.beth.k12.pa.us). These numbers show that schools in Bethlehem are still short of achieving success. It results worrisome to think that under this circumstances “over 70 percent of the graduates from Liberty and Freedom high schools go to higher education” as BASD says.
The idea of improving education in the whole context of the word is very important for the maintenance of democracy. But, it is fundamental to see outside of the classrooms and to remember how our environment is overcharged with capitalist/political thinking and it is pressuring tremendously the children we are trying to educate. “The very atmosphere we breathe is freighted with ideas of property, of acquisition and transmission; of wages, . . . ; of political and social rights; . . . Every native-born child amongst us imbibes notions, either false or true, on these subjects. Let these notions be false; . . . , he will look upon the existing things as rubbish which is his duty to sweep away, . . .” (pp. 81 Mann).

An additional problem in education that deserves a particular attention is the educational gap among the rich and the poor. The most serious consequence of this gap is that selected groups (middle and upper class) are going to become an aristocracy. A rule of experts is likely to dominate the democratic process.

One of the exponents of Participatory Democracy, John Dewey, exposes this important point when he says “rules of experts could not be covered up. It could be made to work only if the intellectuals became the willing tools of big economic interests. Otherwise they would have to ally themselves by the masses, and that implies, once more, a share of government.” (pp. 169 Dewey). The realist and Neo realist Critiques of Democracy identify the force behind this need of experts. “Today, it is primarily the capitalist market economy which demands that the official business of public administration be discharged precisely, unambiguously, continuously, and with as much speed as possible.” As it can be seen, the economic system is describing the model in which democratic institutions should work rather than the opposite. However, our nation has accommodated itself to this model successfully.
To apply this “rule of experts” concept to the city of Bethlehem it is necessary to focus on the Mayor and the City Council. The mayor of the city of Bethlehem is John B. Callahan. He is a recent graduate of the Harvard University JFK School of Government Executive Program on Leadership in the 21st Century as well as the Transition and Leadership for New Elected Mayors Program. Previous to this, he got a B.S. in Biology from Moravian College. And, he was employed as Senior Institutional Health Care Consultant for 12 years with Pfizer, Inc. (Www.bethlehem-pa.org/about/mayor/index.htm).

A phone interview with the mayor of Bethlehem was made in April 13, 2005. In it, it is possible to identify directly the health of democracy in the city. The questions were fundamentally related to theories of democracy. Too much power in the hands of government is the main concern of Protective Democracy; and, when the Mayor was asked about this concern referring to the city, his only answer was “no, there is a proper balance.” Pluralist Democracy denotes group competition when free people with similar interest come together to talk in a single voice. When asked about interest groups in the city, the mayor say that “yes there is a presence of interest groups. Any time you have an issue; there are two or three sides of interest.” An example of that is “when there is a city project, there is businesses’ interest, cultural interests, preservationists’ interest, and environmentalists’ interests. My role as a mayor is to understand players and their interests and proposals making people as happy as possible. However, you cannot please everybody. It is impossible. At the end, I have to become a broker, coming out with solutions that make every body happy.”

The central theme of Performance Democracy is the individualist conception of democracy in which people ask more about how policies affect “me” rather than “us”. When
asked whether this is happening in Bethlehem, the Mayor said it is “unavoidable”. “Good politics is good policy. It is the government’s objective to come out with plans or solutions that cover everybody. But, for citizens, it is unavoidable to look after their own interest. It is the essence of democracy to have opportunity to think about my own good”

One of the questions that brought a rapid reaction was related to the Realist and Neo realist critique of democracy which put “power competition” as the central issue to understand politics. Having a government model of Mayor and Council may bring competitive behaviors. Is there a competition? “Absolutely, it is natural. They are two different branches” with different agendas. But, “it is unhealthy because the city is at stake. We have a third class city government in which there is a strong mayor and the council has an advisory role. This has to be accepted and the council is not comfortable with it. And, it may result in confrontations”

Participatory democracy says that the benefits of democracy can be only appreciated when there is a high level of citizen participation in the task of governing. On this the mayor responded that “unfortunately, above average but overall low corresponding to a national trend. People are not well informed and they do not understand politics. Others think that money has influence; and this becomes a problem of confidence.” Strong democracy says that the representative principle in democracy is bad because it subordinates the will of citizens. The representative principle for city government “is better because the decision-making process is faster and more efficient than to have a referendum model where citizens would vote for every legislation”

Is there a healthy democracy in the city of Bethlehem? “Yes, rights and concerns of people are respected. People find opportunity to express their interests and accessibility to
government is prevalent. There is a fear treatment of the people. The city has a strong long term vision that will benefit the community in general”

A personal interview with a city council member, Ismael Arcelay, (made in March 18) will help identify a different perspective about the health of democracy in the city. This interview did not focus strictly on theories of democracy because it was possible to have flexibility and informality due to the sharing of a breakfast. It was planned to bring the citizen rather than the public official to share democratic views.

On the definition of his job, he said “I represent my constituencies and defend them. I do not work for the Mayor and I oversi

Hispanic encourages the growing Hispanic community to seek my help. And, what I see is that some public officers lack compassion to assist some sectors of our community.” The difficulties of the job are “to find defensive people who are not ready to take responsibility for any mistake made in the administration of the city. People do not want to look bad; and excuses are rapidly found. It is a hard job because I have to meet both sides (government and community) and find solutions sometimes under pressure.”

In order to describe the community of Bethlehem in terms of democratic participation and knowledge of the democratic and political process, Council Arcelay drew the following:

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Education is supposed to change this numbers, as Horace Mann might say, but Council Arcelay said that “education is good for the few, the ones that know and may want their children
to know.” Also, he points out the role of organizations to change but “some organizations lack of education and money power to influence politics but they have passion speak out.” For the majority of the community “democracy does not mean too much. It is rather seen as a tool to achieve something.”

It can not be deny the role of the media in democracy. “The conductors of the public press are responsible, for they have daily access to the public ear, and can infuse just notions of this high duty into the public mind.”(pp. 82 Mann). However, for Council Arcelay the press is not working properly in Bethlehem. “The Morning Call is a bias newspaper. They work for a good history, that sells, but we cannot trust or believe what it says. 50% to 60% of what it says is ok. TV has the same problem; its only purpose is to get audiences by exaggerating official events.”

Is there a healthy democracy in Bethlehem? “No. There are people who control too much. There is a withholding of information that made the Council’s job difficult. Based on complains, some city officials, in the Office of Economic Development, must reach the community better to facilitate the process for those looking for opportunities to open a business. There is a public apathy toward city government. Both sides, community and government must communicate and participate together in the resolutions of every problem in the city. Good information and knowledge is the key to improve democracy in the city.”

The city of Bethlehem has the potential of becoming one of the most important cities in the state of Pennsylvania. The great economic infrastructure and development is creating enough incentives for investment and place of residence in the city. White population outnumbers any other race but this is changing because more and more minority peoples, such as
Hispanic, are choosing the city to reside and start businesses. At the same time, big employers, such as Lehigh Valley Hospital, provides good prospects for financial security. However, city’s residents are alienating their efforts to fulfill only economic goals. This is normal in our system; but, this is bad for democracy. A democratic system of citizens’ participation can not flourish in this environment. City’s problems can not be resolved because only one side (government’s) is represented in the decision-making process. Only apathy and mistrust can result from this.

It must be recognized that there are instances in which community and government can work together to achieve vital goals such as the economic revival of neighborhoods. Associations and organizations are the positive outcome of a union of efforts toward a common goal. There are many clubs and organizations in Bethlehem allowing people in the community to have the benefit of “power of meeting” and share their ideas with people with similar interest such as cultural, environmental, health, preservation, and religion. Church represents one of the most important organizations in our nation and in Bethlehem we can find probe of this. The city has about 89 churches.

One element influencing in a positive way previous democratic indicators is education. It is improving in the city thanks to the Not Child Left Behind Program. The report card of The Bethlehem Area School District for the year 2004, when issue, will be an important indicator of educational improvement. However, the educational gap, prevalent in the entire nation, is easily felt in a small city. It is a problem that is almost impossible to fix with just the NCLB program. The major consequence of this is the “rule of experts.” Oligarchies are going to dominate the democratic process.
The Mayor and the Council form the “rule of experts” in the city. With excellent educational background, Mayor Callahan, is the ruler in a system of Strong Mayor-Council. He does not see any particular problem in the city with respect to democracy. However, the mayor acknowledges the presence of interest groups in the city government. He describes himself as a broker rather than a player in the interest groups’ competition for power. But, the truth, ignored here, is that everybody has an agenda.

Council member Arceley provides a better realist view about the state of democracy in the city. His job is to “oversight everything”. He is worried about the way city agencies are treating people; and, how he finds a defensive aptitude in city officials. He made a very important graphic description of the community of Bethlehem in terms of political participation and knowledge. He finds that only 5% of the population knows about democracy and the political process; but, this segment of the population is tired and has given up any efforts to motivate people to get involve.

In conclusion, the hard working people of the city do not have the luxury of taking free time and find out about city government. The residents of Bethlehem are aware that many changes are occurring in the city. But, it is more important the economic security that these changes will bring to the city rather than political representation and participation. Apathy is very common because “the intelligence and sentiments of the whole people are given up to material interests, and when these are provided for, to the amusement and ornamentation, of private life” (pp 43 Mill.). Individualism will always take people to think first in the self rather than community. Performance democracy is going to reign in the city for the years to come.
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