

UA engineer quits; councilmen left in the dark

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The resignation of Upper Arlington's longtime city engineer last week has raised more questions than it has answered and angered some members of the City Council.

Doug Green, the suburb's engineer since 1990, accepted a severance package on May 30, City Manager Virginia Barney said.

He had been on paid leave for four to six weeks, she said, after issues concerning his management style were brought to light in late March.

Since then, Upper Arlington police have begun investigating other allegations against Green, Barney said. The Ohio Ethics Commission also has been asked to look into them, she said.

"The separation agreement was made solely on management issues," Barney said.

Asked if financial accountability was a factor in Green's resignation, Barney said, "We don't know. It could be anything. We're looking at the whole range."

She would not give details of the police and ethics investigations. Police Lt. Ernie Ankrom also would not discuss the case, saying the department still is investigating.

City Council President Don Leach and Vice President Mary Ann Krauss were informed of the situation in mid-April, Barney and Leach said.

Barney and Leach said such personnel matters fall under Barney's responsibilities, so information wasn't relayed to other council members until May 30.

"This is an individual four steps down in the organization, not like a department head," Barney said.

"This was not a sinister withholding of information," Leach said, adding that he wanted "to let the city manager do her job."

Councilmen Frank Ciotola and Wade Steen said they would have liked to know sooner.

"Ginny Barney did not make me aware of (Green's leave and resignation) until Friday," Ciotola said. "I still don't know a whole lot, which is very frustrating.

"Not knowing all the facts, if it's just a minor personnel matter she'd deal with on an everyday basis, it's not a big deal," he said. "But when it's the city engineer, and it's sounding like a bigger deal, I have a problem with that.

"If there are serious issues, and she knew, that's totally upsetting to me we weren't notified till last Friday," Ciotola said, adding that he was frustrated that Leach and Krauss did not share the information.

Steen said such information would be shared with decision-makers in a business, and that's how it should be in government as well.

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