



## CONKLIN: COALITION SHOWS WEIRD, WILD STRIPES

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We thought flag-flanked radio host Vicki McKenna had the patent on being the "Voice of Reason in a City of Chaos," but a new coalition unveiled Tuesday touts a similar theme: Bringing sanity to what it depicts as the zaniness of local government.

The Common Sense Coalition is a troupe of strange political bedfellows. On stage at a press conference at Overture Center announcing the new political force are union leaders like police's Scott Favour and fire's Joe Conway (19 unions are members) with former school board conservative Ray Allen.

"This is the first time I've been involved in a group this diverse, racially, politically and economically . . . but who share so much in common," says Allen.

Peter Munoz, head of nonprofit Centro Hispano who worked for former Mayor Sue Bauman, is chairing the effort and is standing near developers like Curt Brink and businessmen like Grant Frautschi (let's answer those reader e-mails ahead of time . . . yup, he's the son of Jerry Frautschi.)

"I now know exactly what it looks like to herd cats," jokes Roger Putnam of Putnam Roby Communications, which is organizing the coalition.

"We need a government who understands small business," says Madison rising star Dan Guerra, who at 22 owns his own Web business, Argus Innovations. He cites issues like the smoking ban and lobbying ordinance as things that could "use more participation."

Two model group members, Semmi Pasha and Michael Quigley, the former an active Dem - the latter a GOPer, put political differences second to friendship long before either joined this coalition.

In fact, this pair hashes out their political disagreements over a mean game of Halo on the Xbox. Looking for a good way to describe the group, Quigley says, "It's a cross-section of centrist Madison." Pasha one-ups him on the sound bite: "He's the common, I'm the sense."

Ohhh, watch out - Quigley's going to take that out on his buddy "Sem Dog" on the Xbox for sure.

And we'll just have to see where this group targets its combined political muscle.