First Friday Noontime Forum Series

"Continuing the Growth and Prosperity of Downtown Lancaster"

December 2006 – James DeBord – York Counts

- Both municipal and school systems have arcane, artificially created boundaries that lead to vast tax rate/economic disparities among neighboring municipalities and townships.

- The concentration of poverty creates perpetuating negative circumstances for specific neighborhoods and geographic areas.

- Segregation, whether it be economic or racial, creates divisions and separations among the citizenry.

- There are ever growing disparities between poor and affluent areas. City tax rates are typically much higher, and city residents receive less for their money, than those living in the suburbs.

- The city and the city school district lack resources to upgrade facilities such as schools, roads, bridges and sidewalks.

- An economically distressed city and school district can't provide or support the needed services as well as its neighboring, better-funded, fully-staffed suburban counterparts.