



Memorandum

TO: Honorable Mayor &
City Council

FROM: Toni J. Taber, CMC
City Clerk

SUBJECT: The Public Record
August 1 – August 7, 2014

DATE: August 8, 2014

ITEMS FILED FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD

1. Letter from David Wall to the Mayor and City Council dated August 7, 2014, regarding “Is the Knight Foundation ‘peddling influence’ for San José Downtown development? Is ‘Sponsored Travel to Copenhagen for Bicycle Transportation Study Tour’ a form of ‘inducement’?”

Toni J. Taber, CMC
City Clerk

TJT/slg

<p>Distribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor/Council City Manager Assistant City Manager Assistant to City Manager Council Liaison Director of Planning City Attorney 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director of Transportation Public Information Office San José Mercury News Library Director of Public Works City Auditor Director of Finance
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David S. Wall

RECEIVED
San Jose City Clerk

2014 AUG -7 PM 4: 29

AT OTC

August 7, 2014

Mayor Reed and Members San José City Council
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, California 95113-1905

Re: Is the Knight Foundation “peddling influence” for San José Downtown development?

Is “Sponsored Travel to Copenhagen for Bicycle Transportation Study Tour” a form of “inducement?”

Dateline: City Desk [Thursday, (08.07.14)]. *Is sponsored travel an inducement to engineer life style changes?*

During the “Rules and Open Government Committee” meeting yesterday, [Wednesday, (08.06.14); Item A (1), “Review of the August 12, 2014 Final Agenda (City Council meeting agenda); Item 2.8, “*Sponsored Travel to Copenhagen for Bicycle Transportation Study Tour*”] was discussed. The “Sponsor” is The Knight Foundation who is going to pick-up the entire cost; travel, lodging and meals for two city employees from the Department of Transportation (DOT) and...Councilmember Khamis.

Almost four (4) years ago to the date (08.13.10), the retired City Manager issued a Memorandum whose subject matter was, “*Sponsored Travel to the Netherlands for Bicycle Transportation Study Tour*.” On this tour the “Sponsor” was “**Bikes Belong Foundation**.” In this junket, only one (1) city employee from DOT and...Councilmember Liccardo received “travel and accommodations costs.”

One result flowing from the “*Sponsored Travel to the Netherlands for Bicycle Transportation Study Tour*” was the explosion of bicycle lanes; “green painted” bicycle lanes, and other white painted bicycle pictures on city streets. Was this “sponsored trip” an inducement by a special interest group to engineer life style changes in San José without the consent or knowledge of the VOTERS?

Below are the City Manager’s Memorandum and another pertinent document of the Netherland experience.

http://www3.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/Agenda/20100824/20100824_0214.pdf

http://www3.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/CommitteeAgenda/Rules/20100825/rules20100825_f.pdf

There are many problems here in San José with reference to bicycles being permitted to use the public side-walks as roadways endangering and sometimes injuring citizens. The “Rules Committee” has heard from several citizens on the issue of people riding their bikes on the side-walks with reckless disregard for the safety of others (including at yesterday’s Rules meeting).

About a year ago, Councilmember Liccardo, upon hearing the concerns of citizens “getting mowed down” by bicyclers on the public side-walks, achieved an area in District 3 in which bicycle riding on the public side-walks will be prohibited. This defined area (does not include all of District 3 or anywhere else in San José) encompasses the location of the San José Downtown Association.

By the way, The Knight Foundation, on July 8, 2014 gave; The San José Downtown Association \$150,000; SPUR \$183,700 and Transform (GreenTRIP) received \$100,000.

<http://www.knightfoundation.org/press-room/press-release/three-silicon-valley-organizations-help-build-more/>

What is the “real” purpose of “*Sponsored Travel to Copenhagen for Bicycle Transportation Study Tour*?” To observe people how they ride bikes in Copenhagen or to politically induce and or reward those that kowtow to a special interest entity?

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Wall
08.07.14

Cc: City Attorney / City Auditor / City Manager

David S. Wall

PUBLIC RECORD d

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2010 AUG 19 P 4:34

August 19, 2010

Mayor Reed and Members San José City Council
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, California 95113-1905

Re: City Officials justify trip to “the Netherlands” to ride bicycles (and possibly Dutch babes?)

Forty-Nine (49) laid off Fire Fighters and the Public possibly “burning to death” is still “no big deal”.

I am still laughing at this one. Whoever said San José’s Municipal government meetings are boring has never been to a “RULES” meeting.

Enter center stage, Councilmember Liccardo’s memo dated (08.12.10), “Request for Travel” and the City Manager’s memo entitled, “Sponsored travel to the Netherlands for bicycle transportation study tour”, dated (08.13.10) as they fully appear and are fully contained within the “Rules and Open Government 08.18.10 Agenda”, Items (H.3) and (H.4) respectively.

Councilmember Liccardo and the City Manager’s designee, the “Acting Deputy Director for Transportation Planning and Project Delivery” get the “free bicycle tour of the Netherlands”.

This “sponsored trip” is billed as “no cost to the taxpayers” and is funded by “Bikes Belong Foundation” at a cost “estimated to have a value of \$3,500 per person.” However, Councilmember Pyle, the ever “watchful eye” at “RULES”, raised questions as to the motivation of the sponsors of the “bicycle study tour”. The City Manager memo (which in itself is a treatise on manure) alluded to the possibility of a business relationship, (on page 2) with reference to a Form 700 and possible disqualification if... out of the clear blue sky, a business relationship with “Bicycles Belong Foundation” just happens to come to fruition.

Use of “San José’s Green Vision Policy” to justify a free trip to Holland is disingenuous and laughable.

C’mon, what city official would turn down a free trip to Holland; to ride bicycles, seeing how the Dutch smoke “reefer” or checking out the hookers on Canal Street (from the vantage point of the bicycles of course)? ...*Hey, wait a minute...maybe it is the regulation of prostitution by the Dutch which is the hidden agenda for this bicycle trip for revving the Downtown business economy of San José?*

Being drunk in public in San José has become “tolerated”, gambling at the card houses have increased, marijuana smoking is about to be made legal and Downtown businesses still suffer. Is “prostitution” the next step in the progression of San José to “revive the Downtown economy”? But, how will city leaders regulate “prostitution” for tax revenue purposes? Where will it be located?

Is Fire Station #1 slated to become “Brothel #1”? “Brothel #1” as segue to the Downtown?

With Councilmember Liccardo going on a road trip to the Netherlands and like the rest of Council is wholly unconcerned with the possibly of members of the public burning to death; it is rumored that the Fire Department’s new fangled deployment strategy, to cope with the catastrophic loss of forty-nine (49) Fire Fighters, will leave Fire Station #1 vacant. So, city leaders are exploring “the economic opportunity” to use Fire Station#1 as a “brothel”.

Travelers will be transported from the airport by taxi to “Brothel #1” for few drinks and some softening up prior to going to the Downtown. They could even “ride the Fireman’s pole for a few bucks” and then to the Downtown clubs for a night of puking in public, a few hits of “purple haze” and then to the hotels to sleep it off or for other acts of city sponsored debauchery for the sake of tax revenue.

If the city structures the tax revenue just right, there will be a few bucks left over to reduce the “Cost Per Enplanement” and to pay down the airport’s \$1.3 billion dollar debt.

Of course, the city leaders could go to St. Joseph’s; get good with Lord Jesus, repent of their sins and fund the reinstatement, at full pay, of our valiant, forty-nine (49) Fire-Fighters.

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Wall
08.19.10

Cc: City Attorney / City Auditor / City Manager