



PSP to Pay Authority 5% Instead of Standard 20% to 30%

In reviewing convention center -related contracts, *NewsLanc* has discovered that Penn Square Partners (PSP) will only pay 5% of revenue for the right to be the concessionaire at the convention center rather than the industry norm of 20% to 30%.

PSP should agree to increase the concession fee to industry norms.

PSP should also relinquish any share of revenue from the sale of convention center naming rights. This amounts to perhaps half a

million of dollars that rightfully belongs to the to the citizen-owned convention center.

And S. Dale High, whose firm is the managing partner of PSP, should waive his preferential treatment for putting his name on the convention center building.

High is an investor in the Marriott Hotel, not the convention center. High is no more entitled to preferences than anyone else in the community.

Mayor Gray Puts Politics Ahead of a Peace

Mayor Rick Gray of Lancaster leaped onto center stage to badmouth a proposed agreement to settle outstanding litigation between the County Commissioners and the Lancaster County Convention Center Authority, even though the city has no involvement in the convention center portion of the project.

According to the *New Era* of Oct. 15th, “Gray said he had offered to arrange such an agreement two years ago after his election. That offer was rejected by Henderson.”

Gray’s claim that he had made such an offer apparently came as news to Henderson and county solicitor Howard Kelin. According to

Henderson, “Neither one of us remembers anything like that.”

With the election only three weeks away, did Gray want to prevent candidate Henderson from reaping praise for helping to resolve the remaining litigation?

When a candidate for mayor, Gray had promised if elected to immediately convene a meeting of various parties on both sides of the convention center issue and “to either move ahead or find another use for the Watt & Shand site.” Instead, within days he threw his entire support to the project.

Government Study Commission to Spend \$151,865 to Educate Public

In a meeting lasting the better part of two hours Tuesday night, the nine members of the Lancaster County Government Study Commission grappled with the question of whether the proposed County Executive should be elected or appointed.

When a straw poll was finally taken at the end of the night, 5 Commission members favored appointment, 3 favored election, and member Greg Sahd abstained on the grounds that he does not favor having a County Executive at all.

Appearing to have grown weary after two hours, Commission Chair Carol Phillips finally called a vote on the \$151,865 budget, which was approved by a vote of 7-2.

The Non-Candidate: A Profile in Courage

When he was approached in 2002 to run for commissioner, Dick Shellenberger was hesitant. But State Senator Gib Armstrong and others convinced him that a man of his management experience and rock solid conservative and deeply religious convictions was exactly what was needed.

Like other “Bush” Republicans in 2003, Shellenberger campaigned on a platform of privatization. He questioned why the county was in the business of operating and subsidizing a nursing home unlike most other counties throughout the country. There was no secret about his intention.

Shellenberger’s conservative convictions that tax payers should not subsidize private businesses also led him to question a county guarantee of the dubious convention center project. In doing so, he went against the financial and political interests of the local power elite that had originally backed him.

Establishment puppet District Attorney Donald Totaro launched a year long special grand jury inquisition that vindicated Shellenberger. But to put the cloud of an investigation behind him so that he could campaign for re-election, Shellenberger and the others accepted a plea bargain to a minor violation that the later grand jury report indicated they did not do. And the convention center co-sponsor, the monopoly Lancaster Newspapers, portrayed Shellenberger’s and the others’ so called violation of the vague Sunshine Act as though they had committed the crime of the century!

Shellenberger will not be on the November ballot. But in years to come and as the taxpayers become burdened with convention center debt, people will come to speak of him with admiration. He showed the rare courage and paid the price for adhering to both his convictions and his faith and doing what he thought was best for the citizenry.

Intelligencer Journal’s excellent series on SDL

KUDOS: To the *Intelligencer Journal* and staff reporter Brian Wallace on three informative, intelligent, in depth articles about the School District of Lancaster headed "SDL

faces tough test,” “More students are choosing to switch schools” and “Carter & MacRae: A lesson in success.” Wallace writes with knowledge and clarity.

Break free from the monopoly press! Visit www.NewsLanc.com daily.