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## Should Kudos also go to the Lancaster Newspapers, Inc.?

Something simply doesn't add up.

We don't mean to detract one jot of our praise of County Commission Chair Scott Martin for the pro-active role he has played in helping to resolve the Convention Center debt crisis. The Center has become a 'tar baby' and he had no skin in the game and could have safely remained on the sidelines.

Instead Martin took the lead and risked blame from all sides if a grand compromise with meaningful concessions by Penn Square Partners and Wells Fargo Bank could not be achieved.

Through an affiliate, The Lancaster Newspapers, Inc. is a half partner in Penn Square Partners, equitable owner of the Marriott Hotel that connects to the Center. The general partner is an affiliate of S. Dale High.

Although the proposed settlement imposes

significant sacrifices on Penn Square Partners, from the time that Martin volunteered for his role through last week's press conference at which he set forth the proposed rescue plan, the Lancaster Newspapers have not in any way cast a shadow on Martin's efforts or his proposals.

As former commissioners Dick Shellenberger and Molly Henderson have reason to know, no public official can 'cross' the Lancaster Newspapers and be re-elected. Therefore we conclude that Martin had at least tacit approval for his efforts with an implied understanding that the chips could fall where they may.

If that indeed is what has happened, we owe thanks not only to Commissioner Martin but also to the half ownership of Penn Square Partners that sees beyond grasping hold of all its one sided provisions.

## Richest 1% takes home record share of US income in 2012

**ALJAZEERA:** The income gap between the richest 1 percent and the rest of America widened to a record last year, new analysis has found.

The top 1 percent of U.S. earners collected 19.3 percent of household income in 2012, their largest share in Internal Revenue Service figures going back a century.

U.S. income inequality has been growing for almost three decades. But until last year, the top 1 percent's share of pre-tax income had not yet surpassed the 18.7 percent it reached in 1927, according to an analysis of IRS figures dating to 1913 by economists at the University of California, Berkeley, the Paris School of Economics and Oxford University...

## **LETTER: Charter schools undermine public schools**

*“Every single charter school takes the equivalent amount of taxpayer funding of one public school away from the local school district. This means that to maintain the same level of services, one public school must be closed to offset the money given to each charter school that opens.*

*“Obviously it doesn’t seem to work like that in real life, since each charter school draws students from a number of public schools. But the reason that Philadelphia and Chester-*

*Upland and other districts are in such financial straits is that an increasing number of charter schools leaves less and less funding for all of the other public schools.*

*“Trying to spread the taxpayer funds lost to charter schools across more and more public schools can significantly reduce the quality of public education. The only way for a district to avoid harming their own students is by closing one public school to pay for each charter school that opens.”*

## **Unlike Lancaster, Harrisburg arranges for expert review of its proposed bail out**

### **HARRISBURG PATRIOT NEWS:**

[Harrisburg] City Council has hired attorneys to do an independent review of the state-appointed receiver’s proposed plan to resolve about \$624 million in local public debt.

A three-person team from Alvarez & Marsal started reviewing the Harrisburg Strong Plan during the past few days, said Bill Roberti, who heads the firm’s public sector practice.

**NEWSLANC EDITOR:** *Harrisburg, which will receive relief from \$624 million in local public debt, has engaged outside experts to scrutinize the*

*arrangement.*

*Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority is committing \$200 million to the acquisition and modernization of the trouble plagued and environmentally challenged Harrisburg incinerator. Jim Warner, the LCSWMA’s president, says no outside expert evaluation is needed or desired.*

*Meanwhile, Lancaster County and City officials have paid little heed to a venture as large in cost as the Convention Center Project.*

*Talk about country bumpkins!*

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