



May 12, 2008

Mr. Richard F. Lessner
City Manager
City of Black Hawk
P.O. Box 17
Black Hawk, CO 80422

Via Facsimile 303-582-0848 and Registered Mail, Return Receipt Requested

RE: Written Questions Regarding City of Black Hawk Spending

Dear Mr. Lessner:

Colorado Ethics Watch (“Ethics Watch”) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit watchdog group that holds public officials and organizations legally accountable for unethical activities that undermine the integrity of state and local government. We have followed with interest the recent series of reports from Denver’s Channel 7 news regarding City of Black Hawk (“Black Hawk”) spending. We understand from those stories that it is Black Hawk’s policy to respond only to questions submitted in writing to the city manager. Therefore, Ethics Watch is submitting to you the following written questions regarding the matters investigated by Channel 7:

Global Gaming Expo Travel

1. What were the public benefits obtained by Black Hawk from having city officials attend the Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas in 2005, 2006 and 2007?
2. What seminars, conferences or other events were attended by Black Hawk officials at the Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas in 2005, 2006 and 2007? Please specifically identify which Black Hawk official(s) attended each identified seminar or other event.
3. Was the city of Black Hawk reimbursed for the travel expenses of officials’ spouses or friends that accompanied them to Las Vegas during the Global Gaming Expo in 2005, 2006 and/or 2007?
4. Would it violate any Black Hawk policy, code or law for the city to pay travel expenses for spouses and friends of Black Hawk officials?
5. Did any city official charge the city of Black Hawk for alcohol beverages consumed on any trip to Las Vegas or anywhere else? If so, was the city reimbursed for

those expenses? What policy, if any, applies to Black Hawk officials with respect to the billing of expenses for alcohol beverages?

6. Has Black Hawk taken any steps to obtain reimbursement for expenses related to travel for spouses and friends of Black Hawk officials? Why or why not?

7. Has Black Hawk taken any steps to obtain reimbursement for expenses for alcohol beverages consumed by city officials during the Global Gaming Expo in 2005, 2006 and/or 2007 or any other travel? Why or why not?

Historic Preservation Grants

8. What controls are in place to insure that recipients of historic preservation grants in Black Hawk use the grant money to preserve the historic character of their properties?

9. Have those controls changed since 2001? If so, please state when the controls changed and how they were changed.

10. Are recipients of historic preservation grant money required to demonstrate to Black Hawk how the grants they received were spent? If so, please describe Black Hawk's policies regarding receipts or other documentation received from grant recipients.

11. How did Mayor David Spellman use historic grant money on his property?

12. How did Alderwoman Kathleen Doles use historic grant money on her property?

13. What criteria are applied in reviewing applications for historic preservation grants?

14. What ethical standards of conduct, if any, govern the approval of historic preservation grants to properties owned by members of the Board of Aldermen or of the Historic and Architectural Review Commission ("HARC"), the Mayor, yourself, or persons or entities affiliated with any of them?

15. Has Black Hawk consulted with an attorney regarding the legality of its administration of historic preservation grants? If so, please name the attorney(s).

16. Has Black Hawk consulted with anyone regarding ethical issues related to its administration of historic preservation grants? If so, please identify the person(s) consulted.

Gilpin County News

17. What were the reasons for Black Hawk's purchase of subscriptions to the Gilpin County News for Black Hawk employees?

18. Why were the subscriptions discontinued?

19. Why did Black Hawk stop publishing legal notices in the Gilpin Register-Call and start publishing them in the Gilpin County News instead?

We look forward to your prompt written response to these questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chantell Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chantell Taylor
Director