



BLACK HAWK ®

City Manager

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May 14, 2008

Chantell Taylor, Director
Colorado Ethics Watch
1630 Welton Street
Suite 415
Denver, CO 80202

Delivered via email: ctaylor@coloradoforethics.org

Dear Ms. Taylor:

Thank you for your faxed correspondence dated May 12, 2008.

Here are the responses to your questions.

1. The City of Black Hawk has a goal of becoming a destination resort (which we are not now). Black Hawk officials learn through first hand observation what amenities the world's leading resorts of this kind are offering. These amenities range from food service and entertainment to lodging, hospitality services, recreation and advertising. The Global Gaming Expo provides insight into what games the industry is considering deploying, the upcoming trends in Hospitality Management and Service Provision and how the above may impact staffing requirements in Black Hawk and labor availability in the Denver metropolitan area.
2. All of the Black Hawk officials who went to Las Vegas attended the Expo.
3. No.
4. No.
5. Yes. No. The City paid for alcoholic beverages in a group setting only. City officials did not individually charge beverages to the City throughout their stay.
6. No. There were no friends. I presume you are referring to common law spouses. Officials remained within applicable spending limitations.
7. No. Please see answer to question #5.
8. Please see enclosed
 - Ordinance 2003-19 Guidelines for Restoration and Preservation Projects
 - Community Restoration and Preservation Fund Guide to Programs
 - Ordinance 2005-8 Income Tax Liability
 - Referenced Ordinance 2006-5
 - Grant Program Agreement

9. Please be specific as to what you are looking for. It is unreasonable to request a broad legislative analysis for the past 7 years. Even State statutes have changed during this period of time. Please see response #8.
10. Please see response #8.
11. For community restoration and preservation. Perhaps you should review the file.
12. For community restoration and preservation. Perhaps you should review the file.
13. Please see response #8
14. The elected Officials annually file disclosures with the City Clerk and the Secretary of State of potential conflicts of interest with the City or private interests. Additionally, at the beginning of each meeting the elected officials have the opportunity to once again declare any conflicts of interest, and any person attending the Council meeting has the opportunity to object to any elected official voting on a matter because of a conflict of interest. The City Council's practices in this regard are consistent with the requirements contained in C.R.S. § 24-18-109(3), and in fact, when the agenda item comes up, the elected official leaves the room so as not to be perceived as influencing the decision on the matter, and that person's vote is recorded as abstaining. Please also note this practice is consistent with the requirements contained in C.R.S. § 12-47.1-1202(3)(i) specifically regarding the distribution of funds for grants.
15. Yes. The City has consulted with legal counsel, both general counsel and special counsel, and has also on occasion sought advice from auditors regarding the administration of its grant program. The current City Attorney is Corey Y. Hoffmann of the law firm of Hayes, Phillips, Hoffmann, and Carberry, P.C.
16. To the extent you are asking about legal requirements such as those contained in C.R.S. §§ 24-18-109 and 12-47.1-1202, please see responses #14 and #15.
17. The City purchased subscriptions for 1 year from both the Gilpin County News and the Weekly Register-Call. The purpose of this was to better inform staff of current events and build a sense of community.
18. Budgetary concerns and the thought that interested employees could continue the subscriptions on their own.
19. Based on informal citizen feedback, Council determined that the Gilpin County News is more widely read and discussed here than the Weekly Register-Call. Thus, to achieve the purpose of publishing legal notices, Council made this decision. Interestingly, the Register-Call does not even bother to bid now.

