

Arvada Mayor Williams Must Recuse Himself From City Council Vote on \$30 Land Deal

(Arvada, Colorado) The infamous \$30 Land Deal development comes up before the city council for a vote on Monday, January 22, 2018, and the citizens grassroots group *Arvada for All the People* is demanding that the City's mayor recuse himself from the deliberations.

The plan is a project of the Arvada Urban Renewal Authority — AURA — of which Mr. Williams has appointed himself twice to its Board of Commissioners and as mayor has now appointed or reappointed all of the members of the board. One board member was Williams's 2015 campaign co-chair and several members were contributors to his campaign.

The \$30 Land Deal is nine acres of publicly-owned, prime real estate to be "sold" for \$30 and the sales and property tax revenue until 2034 rebated to the developer, Trammell Crow. The taxpayer giveaways are ostensibly to subsidize the construction of a two story tenants-only parking garage topped with four floors of apartments that will loom over already traffic congested Wadsworth Bypass at W. 56th Avenue and will ruin the panoramic 'grand view' of the Platte River valley from Grandview Avenue.

The Preliminary Development Plan (PDP) for the apartment portion of the project is scheduled on Monday, January 22, for a city council hearing and vote. In the *quasi judicial* setting council members are supposed to objectively apply the standards of existing ordinances, statutes or regulations to facts presented at a hearing, similar as to how a judge would act.

A height exception for the project was a condition by AURA of the developer, an exemption from current building code. Since Williams was involved as a board member in deliberations resulting in the Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA) between AURA and Trammell Crow, it is unreasonable to believe that he could now be objective — Williams has already established his bias with his actions as part of the AURA board.

Additionally, in television and newspaper appearances Mayor Williams has been City Hall's public advocate for the project since it became controversial last year, also demonstrating his bias.

It is the position of *Arvada for All the People* that:

Mayor Williams's situation is different than the others on the city council, as a member of the AURA board he was actively involved in the negotiations for this deal and voted to approve it; there is no way he can objectively fulfill his duties and responsibilities in the *quasi judicial* setting and he, therefore, must recuse himself and step aside for this PDP hearing and vote.

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