

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
2200 Camp Branch Road
Waynesville, NC 28786
January 28, 2023

Subject: What the [Expletive Deleted] are commissioners paying \$100K per year for to AVL Chamber?

County Commissioners, **David Francis** (pick a title), **CeCe Hipps** and the Chamber of Commerce were exposed paying \$100K per year to the Asheville-Buncombe Chamber as a pass thru for 2018-2019-2020. That's \$300k for Nothing! See www.haywoodtp.net

Now, we find that County Commissioners hid a contract in the 7/20/2020 county commission meeting Consent Agenda to:

18. Request approval of contract renewal - Economic Development Department - Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, Inc. - \$100,000 - to be paid from FY 2020-2021 budgeted funds and approval for County Manager to sign said contract.

That's another \$200K (2021-2022) that Haywood County Taxpayer Dollars are being sent over directly to the Asheville-Buncombe Chamber. For What?

Another 100K for this year? Are we going to let them get away with that? Think how many detainees at the current detention center could have been shipped out to different county's, thus saving the ugly prospect of Haywood County Taxpayers forking out \$50M for a new detention center.

The only thing that the Asheville-Buncombe Chamber has advertised has been the **David Francis** Dirt Spreading Project, a.k.a. the **James Weaver "Kirk" Kirkpatrick the III** Super Duper Sports Complex as an industrial site. It was finally sold to a housing developer, not connected with anything the Asheville-Buncombe Chamber did. See on www.haywoodtp.net

WTF? Have county commissioners been pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars into the Economic Development Council (EDC) for five (5) years, going to the Asheville Chamber of Commerce to advertise the David Francis Dirt Spreading Project (J. Creek Property)? My title should be changed to "The Six-and-a-half Million Dollar Man"! 1/7/2023...

<https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/230106EDC-Site-Jonathan-Creek-2021.pdf>

This piece comes in two (2) parts.

The first part, this one, is a Request for Public Information for the contract Bryant Morehead signed to open the floodgates of Haywood Taxpayer Money being diverted over directly to the Asheville-Buncombe Chamber of Commerce, and;

The second part is a summary of how this came to be, i.e. documentation of the path leading to this discovery.

Here is the Request for Public Information...

Subject: Request for Public Information - Contract between Haywood County and Asheville Buncombe Chamber of Commerce + Funds delivered. #1

Date: Sat, 28 Jan 2023 14:19:44 -0500

From: Monroe Miller

To: Kris Boyd <Kris.Boyd@haywoodcountync.gov>, Bryant Morehead <bryant.morehead@haywoodcountync.gov>

CC: Frank Queen <Frank.Queen@haywoodcountync.gov>, Kristian B. Owen <Kristian.Owen@haywoodcountync.gov>, Amy Stevens <Amy.Stevens@haywoodcountync.gov>, CeCe Higgs <chiggs@haywoodchamber.com>, Terry Ramey <terry.ramey@haywoodcountync.gov>, Brandon Rogers <brandon.rogers@haywoodcountync.gov>, Tommy Long <Tommy.Long@haywoodcountync.gov>, Jennifer Best <jennifer.best@haywoodcountync.gov>, Scott McLeod <info@smokymountainnews.com>, Greg Boothroyd <ads@smokymountainnews.com>, Kyle Perrotti <kyle.p@smokymountainnews.com>, Becky Johnson <bjohnson@themountaineer.com>, Vicki Hyatt <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Jonathan Key <jkey@themountaineer.com>

Mr. Boyd and Mr. Morehead,

This is a Request for Public Information. I would like a "signed" copy of the contract approved for you to sign by the county commissioners at the 7/20/2020 County Commission Meeting, Consent Agenda Item #18,

18. Request approval of contract renewal - Economic Development Department - Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, Inc. - \$100,000 - to be paid from FY 2020-2021 budgeted funds and approval for County Manager to sign said contract.

See the attachment with a copies of related agenda material and article by Vicki Hyatt. How sneaky to put this into the Consent Agenda.

This shows that Haywood County Commissioners have been paying the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce directly, the amount of \$100,000 per year, for 2021, 2022, and this year? That would make over \$500,000 to go to promoting the David Francis Dirt Spreading Project, with nothing to show for it.

Please also have Kristian Owen provide a spreadsheet of Funds that have been paid to the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Please acknowledge this request for Public Information.

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

Haywood County Taxpayer

(My new - a.k.a. - should now be updated to be "The Six-and-a-Half-Million Dollar Man")