

SLATE SELLS DENSITY TO GOODINGS FOR CAMPAIGN DONATIONS

By: Kerry Morris - Feb 27, 2015

FDG Property Management Ltd, a privately held business owned by developer and recluse Fredrick Gooding, came before council in January requesting up-zoning for their property at 161 East Keith Rd (Victoria Park).

The Gooding's representative, award winning architect Michael Katz, has sought and received the largest single floor space ratio ('FSR') increase ever handed out by the City. City staff told council the building design has a 6.25 FSR. Bell, Bookham and Clark all voted "Nay" stating the project was simply too much mass for the Victoria Park site.

Before council voted on the project, mayoralty candidate Kerry Morris, in the Public Hearing phase of the council meeting, asked a series of questions of the developer, staff and council. Those questions included a request that all members of council disclose if they had taken election campaign donations from FDG directly, or anyone else directly or indirectly associated with FDG's project. Morris also sought an explanation regarding why the project, initially scheduled for a council decision in July 2014, had been surreptitiously pulled from the prior councils agenda and was now before this council.



Morris' question regarding campaign donations was refused answer by the Mayor and his 'Slate'. The decision to pull the project from council consideration back in July 2014 was put to Katz during the hearing by the Mayor. Katz told council the decision had been made because it was clear at the time the project lacked sufficient support at the table so Gooding had decided to wait for a council which was more favourably inclined.

Campaign finance disclosure statements were released by Elections BC this week. The disclosure documents reveal that Michael Gooding, son of recluse Fredrick Gooding and the owner of FDG, had donated \$3,000 each during the election to Mayor Darrell Mussatto and councillors Craig Keating, Linda Buchanan and Holly Back. Gooding also donated \$3,000 to Kathy McGrenera's campaign. She didn't succeed in her bid for election. With the paltry sum of \$15,000 the Gooding's had gone shopping for a more favourably inclined council, and they struck pay-dirt.

Council has now approved the Katz design for the 161 East Keith site, estimated to have provided FDG and the Gooding family a win-fall of more than \$5 million. Council approval was granted in a 4 / 3 split decision over the unanimous objections of City residents.

Mussatto and his 'Slate' have once again confirmed they lack any moral compass what-so-ever. This new reality was reconfirmed Monday night when the Slate green lighted a study to examine gaming in the City. Campaign Finance disclosure statements also reveal that 'K&T Properties', an enterprise owned by provincial gaming guru Tom Nellis donated \$11,053.91 to Darrell's personal election campaign, or \$15,373.39 to the entire Mussatto Slate. Nellis is the second largest donor behind the ever present DeCotiis family, whom together donated more than 10% of the Slates total takings, disclosed to be some \$207,007.97. If you thought Mussatto and his troop had lost their moral compass last term, then this term will 'Shock-And-Awe'. They now appear to have dumped the compass altogether!