

10/4/2023

To The Talent City Council and Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood,

The glaring financial conflicts of interest between the Talent Mayor/City Council, The Talent Business Alliance (TBA rents space from Talent in Talent's old city hall), the "Friend of Darby" Awna Zegzdryn (Awna leases Talent government property for her Sweet Beet restaurant) and Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon (MESO/Darby) rents space from Talent in Talent's old city hall) is suspect enough but in light of millions of requested PIER grant funding for the Talent Business Alliance, Awna, MESO, Darby, Councilor Pare-Miller and other friends it leads the public to ask: Is there financial conflicts and even financial corruption between Talent 's elected officials and TBA, MESO, Awna and others.

Talent citizens deserve specific and detailed answers to questions regarding financial conflicts. It is time for transparency. Mayor Darby and other council member should have already addressed these questions. The fact that these questions have not be addressed publicly is concerning. The typical deflection and evasive answers are insufficient in light of millions of dollars requested by Darby, Awna, TBA, Councilor Pare-Miller, MESO, Councilor Ponomareff and others. What the heck is going on financially with Talent's governing body and their associates?

Please answer the following questions with very detailed and specific answers for the public:

How does Mayor Darby financially benefit from her relationship with Portland based MESO? How much is she paid? How much rent is being paid for MESO space at the old Talent city hall and to whom is it paid? Was her position as Talent Mayor used to secure a position with MESO? Will PIER grant awards help fund her salary with MESO? Please advise the public of any financial ties regarding Mayor Darby's relationship with MESO currently and in light of Mayor Darby's employer (MESO) request for grant funding.

Please cover the financial conflicts of interest with regards to Mayor Darby's, Councilor Pare-Miller's, Councilor Ponomereff's and other Talent Business Alliance board members in light of the requested PIER grant request. How much money will be transferred to each board member and to other friends of TBA? What are the names of Talent City Councilors and TBA board members that the TBA Pier grant request would plan to pay? How much would their salaries be? Will grants to TBA members be approved by Mayer Darby, Councilor Ponomeroff and Awna Zegzdryn for TBA's own TBA members? Please advise the public of financial ties to TBA board members regarding TBA PIER grant fund request?

Mayor Darby and Awna Zegzdryn are also requesting \$7,200,000 in PIER grant funding for the land purchase, construction and operation of a new venture named the Rogue Food Hub. Again, how much money will be transferred (planned salary amounts) to each TBA board

member and to other friends of TBA including Mayor Darby, Awna, councilor Pare-Miller and other TBA board members and other Talent City Councilors? Will Awna use the proposed commercial kitchen to assist her own catering business? Please advise the public of financial ties regarding the Rogue Food Hub PIER grant fund request.

How can Mayor Darby and “Friends of Darby” be an integral part of millions in multiple PIER grant request? What the heck is going on financially with/between Talent’s governing body and their associates?

Very specific answers please.

Deric Manzi on behalf of concerned Talent Residents