

Bachteler, James J

From: Walsh, J Doyle
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 12:16 PM
To: rudyc@museumaacm.org
Subject: RE: ACM TDC Capital Funding - 4/23/17

Good afternoon Mr. Ciccarello - thank you for your email. Your input and comments are important to the Board. Your comments have been added to the official record. If you need any further assistance please let me know. Thanks again for reaching out,

-Doyle

Jordan Doyle Walsh
Office of Commissioner Janet C. Long
Chair, Pinellas Board of County Commissioners
Phone: 727-464-3365

From: Rudy Ciccarello [mailto:rudyc@museumaacm.org]
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2017 7:40 PM
To: Long, Janet C <JanetCLong@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Subject: ACM TDC Capital Funding - 4/23/17

Dear Ms. Long,

My name is Rudy Ciccarello, President of the **American Craftsman Museum**. Next Tuesday the County Commissioners will review the recommendations made by the TDC for the Capital Funding Projects awards, including our request for a \$6 Million contribution. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some issues that I believe were not properly presented and discussed during the TDC 3/22 and 4/15 meetings:

1. The American Craftsman Museum is a nonprofit organization chartered as a **PUBLIC CHARITY**.
2. I am not a speculator or a businessman seeking profits; I am a private citizen who has decided to make an irreversible **GIFT** to the City, the County and the PEOPLE of a \$90 Million museum and to bequest to the museum my art collection valued at \$50 Million.
3. Any contribution you or anyone else may make is simply a gift to the PEOPLE and to YOURSELF!
4. In response to the comment made on 4/15 by a member of the Council "*why should we give this guy any money? He said he'll pay for the whole thing even if he does not get contributions*". I did say that, but at a time when the project was a 4-story, 90,000 sf. with a projected cost of \$40 Million. The museum is now 5-story, 137,000 sf. building. I have invested so far \$16 Million for garage construction, and architectural, legal, and consultant fees. I have signed a contract with Gilbane Construction with a \$64 Million GMP and an additional \$10 to \$12 Million will be needed to cover FFE projects, furniture, gallery displays, restaurant, café and bar equipment, security, audio visual, etc. **TOTAL COST: \$90 MILLION**
5. The Council also expressed some concerns about the lack of track record. Let the record show that with a loan of \$15,000, I created Florida Infusion, the third largest "specialty pharmaceutical distributor" in the Nation with sales exceeding \$480 Million yearly (no mergers, no acquisitions... just hard work and organic growth). In 1994 I was awarded the title of Florida Entrepreneur of the Year. In 2004 Florida Infusion was the third largest privately held corporation in Pinellas County. **TRUST ME. I WILL NOT FAIL!**

6. On April 20 we received all needed building permits from the City of St. Petersburg. **WE ARE READY TO START.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,



Rudy Ciccarello
President
American Craftsman Museum, Inc.

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