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Hawaiian Gardens members not included because they fear retaliation

www.stopmoskowitz.org

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February 20, 2001

Attorney General Bill Lockyer
Sacramento, California

by fax

Dear Attorney General Lockyer:

I'm writing to request that you investigate a very peculiar loan relating to Irving Moskowitz, whose gambling license application you are now considering, and Hawaiian Gardens. Additionally, our coalition would like to make you aware of violations of open meetings laws in the passage of a new agreement making the loan the responsibility of the Hawaiian Gardens Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). All the relevant documents follow this faxed letter.

In September 1999 representatives of Irving Moskowitz's Hawaiian Gardens Casino forced a \$3 million-plus, interest-bearing loan upon the City of Hawaiian Gardens, which was to dole out the money at Moskowitz's direction to the CRA to spend on improvements to the casino.

This questionable loan re-surfaced in back-to-back meetings of the City Council and the Agency on February 13. The City Council and the CRA passed agreements in which the Council "loaned" the already-spent funds to the agency. We do not know why this was done, but we do know that it was contrary to the rationale presented for the loan in 1999: that the city should take the loan as it would receive the casino revenue taxes and use those to repay Moskowitz.

It was shocking enough that the city was paying Moskowitz commercial interest rates to facilitate improvements on his casino. This new transaction boggles the mind and cries out for your investigation.

There were no copies of the agreement available for public inspection before the two bodies acted. It was only after we insisted on seeing the documents that a copy of the loan agreement and the covering documents was hastily photocopied for our members. Apparently, no city council or agency member was supplied with a copy. There was no public reading nor any evidence of public diligence on the part of City Council members, who also comprise the CRA.

We have previously urged that your office investigate the use of public funds for the building of a gambling facility, an issue raised by the Isenberg Law and the report of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee staff report of June 2000. At issue is the now familiar coercion of the city by Moskowitz, a developer who seeks to have the public pay for a business which his attorney says will yield tens of millions of dollars in profits. Meanwhile, in almost 20 years of grappling with Moskowitz, the city has not removed the blight that affects its residents. It has only the tent and cinder-block casino—and a massive public debt—to show for over \$12 million in public funds sunk into the project.

On another matter, it has recently become clear to us that, despite what we told you last year, our web site www.stopmoskowitz.org does not have the full copy of the domain registration by Cherna (Mrs. Irving) Moskowitz of the shocking assassination game aimed at Israeli peace leaders. We are, therefore, including a copy of the registration information with this fax. We also invite your office to speak directly to the reporter who uncovered the material. We remain,

Sincerely yours

Haim Dov Beliak, Rabbi
Coordinator for the Coalition for Justice in Hawaiian Gardens and Jerusalem