Myrtle Beach Campaign Financing Fiasco (origins/timeline Page 1)

2005 — Atlantic Beach Bike Fest problems cause dozens of business to close for Memorial Day Weekend.

2007 — Businesses that closed during Bike Fest lose NAACP lawsuit.

2008 - MAY — CCU student Corey Brooks murdered in Myrtle Beach during Bike Fest

2008 - JUNE — City Councilman Michael Chestnut issues "Enough is Enough" challenge, blaming Bike Fest for the murder of Corey Brooks. Council launches all out effort to eliminate all motorcycle rallies, even after news the murder was unrelated to Bike Fest.

2008 - SUMMER — Nation begins plunge into recession; City ignores pleas to consider economic impact of anti-bike moves. Council raises property taxes 3mils to raise $1million to kill bike rallies.

2008 - FALL — City Council passes 15 new ordinances to eliminate bike rallies, including a helmet, curfew, loitering laws and an unconstitutional "administrative" courts law.

2009 - WINTER — City of Myrtle Beach plans and launches all-out, out of market ad campaign in conjunction with MB Chamber to kill bike week attendance and claim rallies have been "canceled" by City.

2009 -APRIL — MBACC/City approach County Delegation to pass Tourism Development Fee legislation enabling City to raise sales taxes by 1% (aka The Ad Tax). Faced with opposition, bill is altered to include Property Tax rebate on owner-occupied homes that offsets the Ad Tax ... represents about 30% of City residents. Bill, projected to generate $15-$18 million/year over 10 years, is drafted and passed in less than one month. Features several unusual elements: only Horry County qualifies in entire state; only Myrtle Beach qualifies in entire County; only two organizations (MBACC & MB Golf Holiday) currently qualify to spend the $180 million windfall; no public referendum is allowed.

2009 - APRIL 30 — DELETED FROM PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION