Myrtle Beach Campaign Financing Fiasco (origins/timeline Page 2)

2009 - Early May

Harley-Davidson Spring Rally an economic disaster; business reported off 30-70%; upwards of $250Million in lost revenue; jobs gone/ businesses closed

2009 - Mid May

Major Myrtle Beach hotelier tells BOOST leaders "if you guys help us get rid of the Atlantic Beach Bike Fest, I'll PAY to bring back your Harleys!"

2009 - Mid May

Mid-May 2009
MBACC borrows $4.5Million **BEFORE 2nd READING** to jump start out-of-market tourism advertising.

2009 - LATE MAY

Horry Delegation/State Legislature passes 1-Cent Tourism Development Fee/Ad Tax raising $180Million over 10 years. Only Horry County & Myrtle Beach & only two organizations qualify to spend money: MBACC & Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday.

2009 - LATE MAY

May 26, 2009
MB City Council votes to approve Ad Tax (7-0). Joins Chamber in campaign to tout advantages of Ad Tax, explain Property Tax Rebate for homeowners.
(1st Reading 5-13-09)

2009 - EARLY JUNE

MBACC Chairman raised and distributed $324,500+ over a period of approximately 50 days or less. Each incumbent member of City Council received an envelope with 24, $1,000 checks; each state legislator received same (except Barfield received only $7,500 - voted against tax); Rankin (ethics reports show nothing); Elliott (ethics reports show nothing); Congressman Barrett received 20 checks totaling $77,000 from same LLCs). Rep Edge reportedly refused the money.

2009 - JUNE/JULY

2009 - SEPTEMBER

Mayor John Rhodes receives approximately $20,000 from dozens of members of MB Golf Holiday apparently distributed through Myrtle Beach National Group. MB National later becomes official address of Good Government for Myrtle Beach PAC. MB Golf Holiday is only organization qualified to receive/spend Ad Tax monies other than MBACC.

2009 - SEPT/OCT

MB Mayoral Candidates Catalano and Van Winkle arrested and jailed in two separate traffic violation incidents of suspicious nature. Catalano for DUI (but blew a 0.00); Van Winkle for a suspect 2-year old Bench Warrant.