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Dana Marie Kennedy Calls for Sal DiCiccio to Answer Questions About Loop 202 Dealings

By Sarah Fenske in [News](#)

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www.kennedyforphoenix.com

Dana Marie Kennedy sharply criticized Sal DiCiccio at a press conference this morning in front of City Hall, saying the councilman has "a lot of questions to answer" about his real estate holdings in the path of the proposed Loop 202 extension.

Kennedy is challenging DiCiccio, who was appointed to his seat in February, in the City Council run-off election November 3. The district represents an area stretching from Arcadia to Ahwatukee.

The questions were triggered by a blog post on this Web site, which detailed DiCiccio's long-term lease of two 75-acre parcels on the Gila River Indian Community. At least one of those parcels would clearly increase in value, should the extension ever become reality.

DiCiccio's Ahwatukee district has fought the extension for years, and the previous councilman, Greg Stanton, took an "over my dead body" stance toward the freeway's construction. DiCiccio, however, has convened meetings with local stakeholders, huddled with ADOT, and attempted to find an attractive alternative to the Pecos Road alignment that has so upset residents.

Kennedy questioned why DiCiccio convened a "kitchen cabinet" to push for extending the 202 through the Gila River Indian reservation -- where, coincidentally, DiCiccio's leases are located -- and kept its meetings closed to the public.

The question behind those questions: Has DiCiccio been working to benefit his real estate holdings, or that of the council district he supposedly represents?

Speaking at the press conference was 80-year-old Greta Rogers, an Ahwatukee resident who was kept from attending the cabinet meetings.

Rogers, a long-term opponent of the freeway, told the assembled media gaggle that she read about the "cabinet" DiCiccio was putting together to study the Loop 202 issue in the *Ahwatukee Foothills-News*. She called to find out the time and place and was told "it's not open to the public," Rogers said.

Then, at the last minute, both the time and place of the meeting was changed -- from a community center to a karate studio. "He was able to circumvent the open-meeting law," Rogers said. "Is that the right thing to have done?"

Kennedy has also called on DiCiccio to release the names of his "cabinet" members. She told *New Times* she put in a public records request roughly three weeks ago and has yet to get the information.

New Times was able to obtain a list of DiCiccio's "cabinet" members last Thursday through the city's public information office. The members include many long-time DiCiccio supporters, as well some local residents active on the freeway issue:

* Clay Schad, former publisher of the Ahwatukee Foothills-News, who donated \$200 to DiCiccio's campaign.

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