New DPS Chief Named; Don't Worry, it's not Russell Pearce

Martin's Announcement Clears Way for Waring Campaign

Boldin Expected to Play; Do the Cards Even Need Him?

Arizona Republic Gives Sal DiCiccio a Free Pass on South Mountain Freeway

By Sarah Fenske in Media, Schmedia, News Tue., Nov. 24 2009 @ 1:56PM

Wow.

We've been known to scratch our heads at the *Arizona Republic*'s unwillingness to call a spade a spade -- or even refer to said spade with a polite euphemism. But a recent editorial in the paper's Ahwatukee community edition may take the cake as the daily's most misguided, misleading, and downright baffling opinion piece ever.

New Times broke the story that Phoenix City Councilman Sal DiCiccio stands to benefit if the Loop 202 is extended through Ahwatukee. The councilman, we reported, is also a developer, with a lease on 150 acres of tribal-owned land on the Gila River Indian Community. DiCiccio's commercial development prospects would surely brighten if the controversial freeway extension is completed.

As we reported, DiCiccio has been using his council bully pulpit to push for just that. He even sat down with Congressmen Harry Mitchell and Ed Pastor to talk about the project, never disclosing his development interests.

But, go figure: Arizona's largest newspaper thinks that kind of activity is a-okay!
When the paper finally got around to acknowledging DiCiccio's work as a developer last month, it was in a dumb he said/she said story about the "nasty" reelection race.

Then, last Friday, the *Republic*'s editorial board took their myopia even further. They actually wrote an editorial calling for DiCiccio's continued involvement!

Newspapers are generally perturbed by public officials who don't recuse themselves from matters in which their interests conflict with those of their constituents. The *Republic*, for one, has claimed Sheriff Joe Arpaio has a conflict in investigating Supervisor Don Stapley because the men have clashed politically. (We happen to agree with them on that one.) They've reported that former legislator Bob Stump may have had a conflict of interest because he solicited donations for a school trust organization even while running for office.

Yet the *Republic* keeps claiming there's no conflict with DiCiccio pushing for a freeway that would benefit his commercial development?

Last week's bizarre editorial refers only glancingly at DiCiccio's major, major conflict. "DiCiccio ... has dealt extensively with GRIC officials over the years as a councilman and developer," the *Republic* notes. (At *New Times*, we might have written, "Of course DiCiccio knows the players -- he's spent four years trying to develop GRIC-owned land.") The *Republic* adds that "DiCiccio has forged a relationship with tribal officials based on mutual respect." Or is that development interests??

Perhaps because it's such an embarassment, the editorial appears nowhere on the newspaper's Web site. We obtained a copy only because DiCiccio emailed it to his constituents.

Search
Blogs Only
Advanced Archive Search >>

Most
Recent Commented Viewed

Brewer Names New DPS Chief; Not to Worry, it's Not Russell Pearce
Chicago Cubs Requesting "Wrigleyville" Atmosphere; Decision to Stay in Mesa or Move to Naples Expected by the End of the Week
Buddy Holly Car Pulled From Barrett-Jackson Auction Due to Concerns Over Authenticity
Dean Martin's Announcement Clears Way for Senator Jim Waring to Run for Treasurer
Anquan Boldin Expected to Play Saturday in New Orleans; Do the Cards Even Need Him?
More Recent Entries...

Slideshows

Club Candids at Cherry Lounge

No Pants Ride Invades the Light Rail and Downtown Phoenix

Tailgating at the Cardinals vs. Packers Game

More Slideshows >>

Twitter Updates
Updating...

Weekly
Music
Promotions
Dining
Events
Subscribe E-Mail Address
Go

Now Click This
- Phoenix Art and Soul
- Follow New Times Events on Twitter
- Follow New Times Coverage on Twitter
- Digital Jukebox
- New Times Street Team
- Add New Times on Myspace
- Become a New Times fan on Facebook

Free Classifieds Phoenix, AZ
- buy, sell, trade (10,809)
- musician (1,481)
- rentals (6,658)
- jobs (1,481)
- adult entertainment (12,285)

PERSONAL OF THE DAY
More Personals >>