

Lisa Enourato

From: Courtney Hamilton
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Participate
Subject: FW: more deceit regarding workforce housing
Attachments: economic realities without the distortions.eml

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From: Billy <wilfrahug@cox.net>
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Subject: more deceit regarding workforce housing

EDITOR:

"Nationwide, we're about 4 million housing units short. If we can put a dent in this valley, I think we're acting locally to eliminate the problem." Apparently Owen Scanlon and folks at Hailey City Hall are intent on putting them all on one tiny lot on River Street.

After very recently establishing the rules for the Downtown Overlay District, P&Z and the City Council immediately throw those rules in the toilet and flush. Three waivers were approved for River Street Townhomes on a non-conforming lot which would have eliminated any consideration of this project as proposed, a slap in the face of Gary Poole and Kiki Tidwell who built a quality project next door.

These are the same folks at City Hall who aggressively attempted to ram through a shipping container project on this same tiny lot proposed by a developer who is now out of business. Like the Municipal Campground it would have happened without the loud objections of the few in the community who still care. With this project the shipping containers are simply stood on end, packed together tighter than sardines.

The first I heard about this project was the announcement of final plat approval in IME reporting on March 28th. On April 1st it was reported that the developer "breaks ground today." This follows the established pattern of further accelerating a pathetically abbreviated review, or FARCE, as many citizens identify a now completely corrupted process, this project approved before the broader community is even aware, at least this time not in a ZOOM meeting no one could attend at the

beginning of the Covid lock-down. The developer is obviously in a BIG hurry as any more thorough, rational examination might raise some legitimate concerns and outrage at the immediate abandonment of regulation by the people who just constructed it. Then there is the lie about it somehow producing affordable housing.

When you waive millions in impact fees for massive residential projects you are then left struggling to compensate for any budget shortfalls with fees for building permits. City Hall somehow believes \$1.9 million is a lot of money. It isn't. Spending it on cosmetic improvements or to put poorly designed bike paths on the wrong side of the street which never gets any sun in the winter is frivolous, particularly when considering the substantial costs of mitigating the future impacts all this massive added density will create while producing NO affordable housing. Sunbeam affordable?! Give me a break! Cart before the horse priorities. Citizens should resoundingly reject any future levy requests by the City of Hailey.

City Hall does not want any public comment, serious consideration, or thorough examination of anything, for instance projected future water consumption or increased sewage capacity this malignant growth agenda will demand. A rubber-stamp will do just fine thank you very much. An agenda which delivers generously to the real estate industry while contributing little to nothing substantive in addressing the workforce housing problem. Ten of these units on River Street will be purchased by wealthy investors unable to access Ketchum, and used as vacation rentals.

The two units priced at \$375,000.00 were identified by Horowitz as "affordable housing." Not for the 'essential workers' down the street at Albertson's who fed us during the pandemic while public sector employees and almost everyone else stayed home. Without help for a down-payment from Mom and Dad or employers, emergency responders, hospital workers, and teachers will never qualify, further inhibiting the infusion of youth this valley so desperately needs. We need projects promoting quality income-adjusted rentals, not half-a-million to a million dollar condos downtown and even more expensive inventory in the massive subdivisions to the east. This project is exclusively about profit, and will certainly deliver it.

The mayor's recent promotion(?) of the CDD to City Administrator will not change her objective of aggressively representing real estate development interests rather than the city and its citizens. This personnel action was executed and announced on Spring Break when literally everyone was out of town, a common strategy in this valley to minimize criticism of decisions representing either glaring stupidity or intentionally avoiding transparency which might result in a demand for accountability. Like the attorneys who hired Horowitz without a legitimate HR process after she was run out of Ketchum, she only sounds like she knows what she is doing. In her new position she doesn't, unless she is a CPA.

Attorneys and others who have spent their entire lives running their mouths (10,000 hours), commonly pretend to have all the answers, but are completely clueless when it comes to development details such as infrastructure carrying capacities, traffic, and the costs of mitigating all the future impacts of massive approved density at build-out. Those understanding how to produce these details were all run off by the bullying of the previous mayor. In the past these details were

determined through comprehensive "Financial Analysis," a requirement once demanded by municipal statute irresponsibly butchered from the annexation ordinance by Haemmerle, Williamson, and Horowitz, replaced by a rubber stamp.

The dishonesty about systematically increasing density as somehow a panacea for workforce housing shortages further exposes the pattern of misinformation at City Hall used to promote a malignant growth agenda on behalf of developers. In this digital age I guess I shouldn't be surprised at the shallow, superficial approach to development in Hailey exhibiting a complete absence of any critical thinking. Now a pattern of "green-washing" propaganda has become the latest deceit. One busy week of operations at Atlantic Aviation cancels more than a year or two of any future benefits from "green" intentions and ordinances City Hall is constantly virtue-signaling about and celebrating.

YES! I absolutely support all legitimate efforts by the city intended to reduce atmospheric CO2 and promote construction of workforce housing, but distorting associated realities so completely as the city has consistently done is just creative lying. For further analysis and associated, relevant history on these and other issues, call me at 208-788-1277 and I will send you a longer letter I stuffed in drafts when Russia invaded Ukraine, too much heartache. I had to escape to denial and limited media consumption for a while. The lies about this River Street Townhome project demanded a response.

William F. Hughes
Hailey

P.S. Please do not edit for content or length.

I know those who make decisions on what is published in the IME often don't like what I say or how I say it, but limiting a solitary voice willing to confront corruption in the local establishment because everyone else has given up, contributes to growing perceptions that the IME has become simply a tool of that corrupt local establishment. What if all of Trump's lies, including the BIG one had gone completely unchallenged?

Instead of the IME honoring any concepts of journalistic integrity and sense of duty to the Fourth Estate and the truth, reporting simply regurgitates without questions the patently false narratives produced by an individual forced from employment with the City of Ketchum for reasons no one will identify, and dumped like a steaming turd on the City of Hailey to stink up and irreparably damage *our* community. Ketchum committed a crime in creating Horowitz and should be sentenced to taking her back.

In reading the editorials, folks at the IME do appear genuinely concerned about workforce housing and climate change, so why would you not allow a rebuttal to the lies being promulgated at City Hall in Hailey that defeat these social and environmental justice objectives? You did the same thing with your persistence in defending the contaminated culture at BCSD for years.

The IME used to encourage vigorous debate, a critical function of the free press, and has published opinions of this length from the "right people" which obviously will never include me. I don't have enough money to purchase a platform or buy any such influence.

A liberal blue island with a free press in a sea of red?! C'mon Pam, if you really believed that you surely wouldn't be doing your control-freak impersonation of Horowitz with the IME by excluding rebel forces from participation using tired, inflexible rules as an excuse. That is what Republicans and WRV DINO's do. Perhaps as a result of having many wealthy friends it took you forever to finally admit that the intentional and corrupt engineering of extreme income and wealth inequality to lavishly enrich the economic aristocracy is the real source of the various and abundant disasters today confronting humanity, globally, nationally, and locally.

Publishing this opinion piece qualifies as a desperately needed PSA and offers the truth as an antidote to a clueless neophyte council carefully groomed to eagerly swallow the misinformation and propaganda on development resulting from Authoritarian Fritz Haemmerle's contamination of Hailey City Hall installing the toxic residue of the dominating influence of Lisa Horowitz after he left.

Rapidly and aggressively strip-mine all the wealth, profit privatized, risk socialized, hoard the accumulated wealth and leave an economic wasteland behind, so those under the bus will remain there, where they belong, with no social safety net.

It is not a coincidence that Trump and Haemmerle happened at the same, two narcissists from privilege manifesting identical personality disorders. One with a corporate Cabinet, the other a real estate P&Z guided by an individual exercising some kind of sick vendetta trying to prove something to those who so abruptly dismissed her.

The current mayor is still suffering Stockholm Syndrome after Fritz took the council hostage in front of the Quigley Annexation following Carol Brown's departure, in a corrupted review process for a decision that had already been made, which was obvious to everyone. Symptomatic of Authoritarian rule. Old Martha still drunk on the malignant growth KoolAid, the Municipal Campground lunacy confirming this diagnosis.

It is heartening to see the bravery and courage of the Ukrainian People and Zelensky. You will no longer find such noble attributes and motivations in our fair valley, now evolving and adapting to the insidious influence of systemic greed, the singular and mindless motivation of the real estate industry. One of my signature comments over the years - *all the money has certainly cheapened the character of our fair valley*, a rapidly accelerating reality over the past couple of years.

Please! Please! Please! I have been praying for rain and snow for over four months now, disturbed by a *third* of the year absent of any measurable precipitation when we should be stacking up supply.

Lisa Enourato

From: Billy <wilfrahug@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2022 11:38 AM
To: Billy
Subject: economic realities without the distortions

The IME's editorial on gentrification appears as just more melodramatic lamentation by an effete local establishment that didn't see or hear the freight train bearing down on the valley for two decades, an inevitable outcome given the extreme income and wealth inequality produced by half a century of conservative corruption of the political economy produced by the only human motivation expressed over that time, greed. At least the mayor of Ketchum has some idea of the predicament in which Joe Biden finds himself, similarly a victim of the consequences of aggressive institutional accommodation of unfettered greed.

That singular motivation of greed has been generously served by the local establishment through the systematic abandonment and butchering of carefully crafted regulation providing thoughtful constraints on development, the real estate industry and the corporate church resort and hoteliers now owning the agenda and local officials for over a decade now.

'THE MERGING OF STATE AND BUSINESS LEADERSHIP' (Please Google caps!) a pattern identical to a totally corrupted national economic paradigm which systematically rejected democratic and egalitarian principles for forty years to legislate a system designed exclusively to deliver mountains of lightly-taxed, unearned investment wealth to the economic aristocracy, whose migration here is applying the "economic pincers."

This image of "remote work" and "urban workers grabbed their laptops" is deceitful, as wealthy newcomers have to deliver some response when someone asks what they do and how they can afford to live here. Yes, no doubt some are high-income *techies*, but most are simply members of the economic aristocracy, the 10% of the population receiving almost 90% of unearned investment wealth and responsible for 3/5 of the \$600 billion lost (2018) to non-compliance with tax laws. From 2011 to 2019 audit rates on taxpayers with over one million dollars in income dropped 81% and the audit rate for large corporations dropped by half, while staff reductions at the IRS reached 14,000.

The IME Editorial Board making a distinction between an "earned" residency from working in the valley over decades versus residency delivered by "global earnings," is a rather vague and shallow analysis of the extreme disparity in income and wealth of working locals in comparison to wealthy beneficiaries of four decades of the conservative corruption of the political economy promoting exclusively the *upward redistribution of wealth*. Partly through the systematic devaluation of the American worker, but mostly through eliminating any regulation and laws inhibiting that objective, corporate attorneys and Wall Street parasites eagerly assisted by the political class they own.

If the former president had simply given the \$480 million his Daddy left him to Warren Buffet and Berkshire Hathaway way back when, he would be one of the richest individuals on the planet.

Before manufacturing billionaires became the primary objective of government there were simply far fewer extremely wealthy citizens. Yes, they were here, but a small minority. Back in the 80s when you asked what these individuals did for a living the response was commonly "artist, photographer, financial advisor," etc. They often worked part-time at jobs with pay not commensurate with their homes, vehicles, and lifestyle, the really *BIG* money coming to them when their parents died. America's wealthiest family dynasties like the Waltons and Kochs are set to pass \$21 TRILLION on to their heirs over the next two decades virtually tax free, as a result of loopholes specifically legislated for the economic aristocracy owning the political class.

At the beginning of the pandemic I thought the wave of extremely wealthy refugees was in response to the pandemic. After further examination of additional information, it appears a much greater influence in this migration is tax avoidance, with Wyoming and Idaho becoming the Caymen Islands of the Northern Rockies.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/interactive/2021/wyoming-trusts-finance-pandora-papers/>

<https://wyofile.com/pandora-papers-expose-magnitude-of-wyos-unethical-folly/>

I read the 'wyofile' piece again. I really liked it because it is from a journalist whose life and home are closer to this conservative corruption in their home state, though the WAPO piece is more comprehensive. The 'comments' revealing divergent perspectives from right to left are very interesting as well. The right only capable of the same tired talking points used for decades to attack "tax and spend" liberals.

A corrupt local establishment has mindlessly opened the barn doors for real estate developers and subsequently wondering "where the hell are the horses?" reveals the complete absence over time of any critical thinking about mitigating the effects of inevitable gentrification, the destiny of all nice places to live. I am pleased the IME Editorial Board is finally making some progress toward the truth about *unearned* entitlement and privilege, income and wealth inequality the real source of all the division this country is experiencing,

The fascist propaganda machine of the oligarchs has effectively exploited the worst inclinations and fears of the Republican base with division intentionally constructed along racial lines. They continue to attempt to destroy our democracy to perpetuate the entitlement and privilege and expand the wealth of the economic aristocracy.

A deeper statistical dive into the conservative corruption of this country's political economy to institutionalize over decades the escalating extraction and accumulation of investment wealth for the economic aristocracy, is provided in the attached email many of you may have already received. Sorry, but most are not wealthy because they are clever, they just had plenty of money to

invest when the oligarchs began engineering the corruption, now owning the political class and the courts, with the political process completely contaminated by money. Corporations are people.

In a recent letter from Bernie: *"Today, in the United States, the two wealthiest people own more wealth than the bottom 42 percent of our population – more than 130 million Americans. And the top one percent now owns more wealth than the bottom 92 percent. During the last 50 years there has been a massive transfer of wealth in our country, but it's going in the wrong direction. The middle class is shrinking while the people on top are doing better than ever."*

This reality didn't just magically or randomly materialize here in our fair valley and country, and lying about everything doesn't change that reality either locally or nationally. Corruption inherently has winners at the expense of the losers. That's the objective of both institutionalized corruption and fascism, now mixed together in a toxic American cocktail. Drink up!

The shift is on!

William F. Hughes
Hailey