

Our new year is starting right where we left off in 2010 and Residents Voice is once again asking for your support. On the agenda GRF will vote to accept or decline a check for \$50,000 from the PCM owner Associa. One must question the reason for a gift of this nature and if it were given with no strings attached and truly a free gift, it would be rude for us to not accept this gift.

However, in reviewing our relationship with PCM and doing some research on the parent company, Associa, it would be wise for us to understand what could be attached to this offer. Associa is politically involved in their home state of Texas. Politicians are quite free with their gifts and make good use of lobbyists to influence actions of others. Some of the questions that come to mind on this offer by Associa are;

1. Would a gift of this nature potentially be expected to influence a vote of the GRF Board on possible litigation against PCM concerning the Incentive Bonus Plan?
2. Would a gift of this nature potentially be expected to influence a vote of the GRF Board on future 3rd party contracts? (Associa has many sources of revenue including Banking, Escrow, Quantity Discounts, Developer Consulting, Insurance, Real Estate, etc.).
3. Would the Fiduciary Responsibility of the GRF Board consider the acceptance of such a gift of this kind as a conflict of interest?
4. Would a reputable employee (Associa/PCM) place their client (LWV) in this position?

Some other considerations when reviewing this offer;

What is the Definition of a bribe?

- A Bribe is any valuable thing given or promised; for one in a position of trust or capacity to violate or forbear from his duty, or to improperly influence his behavior in the performance of his or her duty.
- Bribery is a crime of giving a benefit (e.g., money) in order to influence the judgment or conduct of a person in a position of trust. Accepting a bribe also constitutes a crime.
- Regardless of who initiates the deal, either party to an act of bribery can be found guilty of the crime independently of the other.
- This is how lobbyists work, when they provide gifts they don't have to say, "I expect you to vote for or against the bill that is pending". Lobbyists bestow the gift because they know the gift carries with it influence.

Some KEY points of the offer!

- Do you believe GRF would have gotten this offer if Third Mutual had not filed its lawsuit?
- We ask that GRF provide the name of other home owner associations to whom Associa has made such an offer?
- Does the Associa or the PCM website document any offer of money to any HOA?
- What is termed an offer is merely a way to influence GRF is more than surprising.

This \$50,000 offer substantially exceeds the bribes paid by Jack Abrahamoff who admitted he paid numerous bribes in his role as a lobbyist. Many of his were in the \$10,000 category. Even his payment to Tom DeLay was only \$44,000.