

October 4, 2022

ATTN: Talent, Oregon City Recorder

Talent Citizens Transparency Agenda Item Request

Per Council Rules Section 3 E, and in the spirit of transparency, I request that the City Council agendaize an item to discuss and review the relationship between former Talent Urban Renewal Director Jon Legarza and Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood and that Council provide a full accounting of all TURA and City payments made to Jon Legarza and his company.

Talent residents have concerns regarding the hiring of Legarza, the huge sums of money paid to Legarza and the unexplained resignation of Legarza.

Please provide answers to the following questions:

- 1- Is it true that as part of the Jon Legarza hiring process there was never an independent background check completed and that Mayor Darby and a City Councilor did the background check themselves? Why weren't normal protocols of conducting an independent background investigation followed? Please provide a copy of the background report, with proper redactions.
- 2- Is it true that on March 4 2020 Mayor Darby and the City Council, acting as the Urban Renewal Board, agreed to hire Jon Legarza and that he signed a \$102,000 per year TURA Director contract in April of 2020 under the company name of Healthy Sustainable Communities, LLC (HSC) and that his one man company was not even formed and registered with the Secretary of State until March 19, 2020? The minutes from the TURA meeting of March 18, 2020 show a motion from a City Councilor to amend the Legarza contract with TURA from his personal name to his new business name, before his business was even filed with the state.
- 3- Did Talent's Mayor and Council know that Jon Legarza was still employed full time by Clackamas County when Talent's Urban Renewal Agency (TURA) hired Legarza and that Legarza continued his full time employment with Clackamas county until June 14, 2021 at \$104,000 per year? If they did not know, how could they have performed any background check whatsoever, as this was public information and published in many sites and news articles on the internet?
- 4- Mayor Darby signed off on a check dated 6/30/2021 for \$54,500 payable to Jon Legarza's one man company. What did Talent get in return for these funds before Legarza resigned? How much of Talent's "Covid Grant money" was funneled to Jon Legarza? What percent of the total covid grant monies did Legarza receive?
- 5- It appears that Healthy Sustainable Communities, LLC was a "one man show". Please provide documentation of all members of his staff, if any, and their functions as well as the billable hours connected to each employee, if any, that was performed under each contract provided to Jon Legarza including contracts for TURA Executive Director, Talent Interim City Manager, Talent Fire Recovery and Resilience Director and any others.
- 6- Please provide an itemized list of all payments made to Jon Legarza and his company from the City of Talent and the Talent Urban Renewal Agency since March 2020.
- 7- When and how did Legarza provide formal notice of resignation to Talent and TURA? Please provide a copy of all correspondences regarding his resignation.
- 8- Portland based Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon (MESO) list their Southern Oregon office as Mayor Darby's home. MESO's former Executive Director noted MESO's relationship with Jon

Legarza's company, Healthy Sustainable Communities. Also, a 1/27/2021 Clackamas County 2020 Annual Job Review for Legarza states: "Jon sought out grant funding this year, established a relationship with Micro Enterprises Services of Oregon (MESO) to bring them to the county in two new ways – to provide grants programs and to provide an ongoing technical assistance program...". It appears Mayor Darby gained financial benefit from her relationship with Legarza. What financial relationship was/is there between Mayor Darby, Jon Legarza and/or MESO?

- 9- Oregon Secretary of State shows Legarza's Healthy Sustainable Communities company has been dissolved as of August 4th 2022. This again indicates that he had no employees and formed this corporation solely for the purpose of working with the City of Talent under a different name. What dates were the most recent contracts with Legarza/HSC set to expire? Was all contracted work completed?

Under Council Rules Section 3 E this request must be addressed during Agenda item 11 Other Business. Again, in the spirit of transparency for Talent Residents, I request that the Council agendaize this item.

Sincerely,



Ryan Mallory
1350 Talent Ave
Talent, OR 97540
ryan.mallory@gmail.com
541-951-6995