

First Impression

Official Sitka First Business Alliance Newsletter

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In this issue:

- ♦ The Alliance
- ♦ Ugly Privilege
- ♦ Hypocritical Practices
- ♦ Municipal Efforts
- ♦ Business Advocacy
- ♦ Community

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The Alliance-As we celebrate our first anniversary, it seems like a good time for an update on Sitka's new Chamber of Commerce. "Celebration" may be a stretch when there is still so much to do. As a new volunteer organization, staffing is rather limited, so we knew slow and steady would be the course. Upon creating the Sitka First Business Alliance, we have since drafted a strategic plan which is well underway. Currently, all government and tax filings are in good standing, Bylaws are being written for approval by the Executive Committee and Community improvement efforts have moved forward faster than expected.

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Bigotry and Entitlement...

It hurts to see our society so politically divided. While, we all share the desire to protect the ones we love, so many go about it the wrong way. We look for who, or what, to blame for the things that cause us to struggle. We place fault in those things and people that are different. Reluctant to adapt to, or embrace change, we place blame on all that is alien and Build Walls.

As Southern states in the lower 48 re-embark on efforts to build a border fence to protect their "quality of life" from the invaders ruining all that is good. Bigotry and Entitlement prevent them from seeing the truth. The truth that local economies benefit from the added sales taxes collected, potentially lower wages for entry level and labor heavy occupations, plus gains and growth in areas of cultural diversity and understanding.

It seems, however, that the debate of who's at fault for, all that is wrong and oppressive in our lives, reveals more commonality about us than one might suspect. As a recent petition would indicate, Sitka's supremacists want you to believe that tourists are to blame for all things bad and must be stopped. **Bigotry and Entitlement come in many forms.** The Alliance chooses to not Build Walls and would advise others to avoid petitions asking them to do just that. Let's embrace diversity and personal growth and allow our economy to benefit similarly. (*Legislative Trump Wall*)

Important Disclosure: Membership fees, donations and contributions are Not Tax-Deductible. All fees, donations and contributions will be used for promoting membership and the promotion of the positions of the Sitka First Business Alliance.

Municipal Priorities??

Best Practices ...who are you kidding?!

How about responsible practices, or perhaps, traditional municipal practices? Either of these two options would have been more appropriate than the recent **assembly approval of \$40,000 for an imaginary electric passenger van.**

In an extremely convoluted series of events, the city assembly dismissed the practice of getting competitive quotes on the procurement of municipal property for the purpose of furthering its Activist Driven, Special Interest agenda.

And sadly, \$40K is just part of it.

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Legislation

When you hear Non-Profit, Think Special Interest

Of course they know better than we do, but if you haven't noticed, the Sitka Assembly is serving the interest of activist causes and not the 8500 residents that call Sitka home.

While they'll claim its all in our benefit, they will continue to use municipal funds, your funds, to further pet causes and special interests. These actions are then spun into being a necessity for Sitka's "Quality of Life" narrative. Don't get lost in the spin.

Assembly proponents of this behavior refer to these issues as "collaborating with local Non-Profit groups. These Special Interests have specific missions. They are generally NOT municipal interests, but will be presented that way. "Food Security" for example will cost Land and \$120K to start.

Business

A New Chamber of Commerce in Sitka has legislative concerns at the core of its mission. The **Sitka First Business Alliance** is here to monitor municipal legislation and actions that can effect Sitka Businesses and Families.

Continually sharing our concerns with the City Assembly, the Alliance is committed to protecting the prosperity of local businesses and families.

While the alliance is focused on municipal legislation, new businesses looking for ceremonial ribbon cutting, social media networking or, opportunities to host a party, the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce is better suited for those types of services.

Community

The Alliance is committed to helping Sitka Families thrive and prosper. If there is a piece of Sitka Municipal Legislation that you believe is impeding your ability to provide for your family, let us know.

As the Assembly revels in its recent revenue boom, seen in the last two years, it is currently gearing up to spend all recent gains on special interest that will benefit a few individuals, while burdening many.

How many of us, for example, really expect to see any positive household impact from our pending community garden? Anybody?

No, I didn't think so. Well the assembly will likely spend \$120,000 on this, regardless.

Visit SitkaFBA.com and learn more about the **Sitka First Business Alliance**.