

# **STAY SACRAMENTO! STOP ARDEN ARCADE CITYHOOD**

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**Statement of  
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Chair, Stay Sacramento!**  
[www.staysacramento.org](http://www.staysacramento.org)

Good afternoon, my name is Mike Duveneck, Chair, Stay Sacramento, Stop Arden Arcade Cityhood. First, I want to thank you for coming to today's press conference. We have called this press conference to bring attention to a gross misuse of taxpayer money that your elected officials have been using to fund political initiatives that have absolutely no impact on their city's residents or the communities they were sworn to serve and provide services.

Today's press conference is being held in front of Elk Grove City Hall where in just about an hour, the city council will be considering a resolution to give a \$30,000 gift of Elk Grove taxpayer funds to a community more than 15- 20 miles away. This political and public gift of Elk Grove taxpayer money is slated to be given to a group of people who are attempting to win cityhood in the Arden Arcade area of Sacramento. If the city council passes the resolution tonight, the city council of Elk Grove will have given a total \$35,000 in taxpayer money to help mount a campaign in a community far beyond the boundaries of Elk Grove.

For those in this city who may have not been keeping track of the amount of taxpayer funds going to these political cityhood campaigns, you may want to take note that practically every city looking for funding in the region has received tens of thousands of dollars from Elk Grove City coffers. The cities of Elk Grove, Citrus Heights, Rancho Cordova and Folsom will give their residents the political spin that the money they are giving is not coming out of the general fund but out of various costs savings they have experienced because a position goes unfilled or maybe there was a department that did not spend their entire budget. Frankly this is a lame and ill conceived excuse that the cities have used to placate their constituents. Taxpayer money is taxpayer money!!!

Any savings should be put right back into the cities general fund to provide city services – not fund political campaigns in other communities.

At a Citrus Heights City Council meeting several months ago a council member appropriately asked “why are we giving money to another community. Shouldn’t we use this money for fixing our own streets?”

Today we are announcing our intent to file a formal request with the Sacramento Grand Jury, the Sacramento District Attorney’s office and the California Attorney General’s office to launch an investigation into the misuse of public funds by the following Sacramento County Cities: The City of Elk Grove, The City of Rancho Cordova, The City of Folsom and The City of Citrus Heights. The city councils of these cities have used their arrogance, public funds and political might for the purposes of interceding into the affairs of other communities with the most influential tool of them all – the almighty taxpayer dollar. These cities should be ashamed and embarrassed for using their city tax dollars to exercise undue influence in another community’s affairs. If these political council members saw the need to help these communities with their cityhood efforts, they should have dug into their own pockets in order to help raise funds. Rather they choose to treat the city’s general fund as their own personal wallet and instead gave generously of taxpayer money. We see this act as crossing the purest of ethical boundaries and exercising public spending for political self gain. It is offensive and we believe it is a highly illegal use of public funds.

Maybe these cities feel compelled to spend their tax payer money in other communities because they have enough police officers on the street and there is no crime or growth issues in their community, maybe there are no pot holes or traffic problems that exist on their city streets or there is no gang problems and kids have ample after school programs to keep them busy and out of trouble. We suspect this is not the case. But these city councils seem to think so because that is why they feel free to give away your

tax dollars to a group of people who live and work outside of your communities. The city of Elk Grove, Citrus Heights, Rancho Cordova and Folsom will have given nearly \$100,000 of your tax dollars just to do a study to see if cityhood is even feasible in Arden Arcade, a community far from the Elk Grove legal jurisdiction. Go Figure!

Enough is enough and it is time these cities stop meddling in the affairs of other communities. We call upon the Elk Grove City Council to defeat the resolution tonight and stop the money grab of tax payer dollars to communities outside of your city. The people of Arden Arcade want you to stop interceding in our affair where you do not belong and where you are not wanted! Conversely would you want the citizens of Arden Arcade to intercede in your affairs? I think not.

We also reiterate our call for the Sacramento Grand Jury, The District Attorney's office and the California Attorney General's office to take rapid action in our call for a full investigation into the use taxpayer dollars to fund political campaigns and intercede in the affairs of other cities.

Finally we again ask the residents of these cities demand of their elected officials to immediately stop from using your tax payer dollars for the pure purpose of political influence in communities outside of your own.

Thank you for coming today, and I will be happy to answer your questions.