

10/10/06

Remarks to El Cajon City Council

Raymond Lutz, 1010 Old Chase Ave. Thank you.

Deceptive and inaccurate films were funded by the taxpayers of El Cajon and broadcast on the Government Access Channel. These films have been shown for nearly four years, about 2,500 hours, and were pulled only last week due to their unconstitutional content.

David Barton created these films. He has no historian credentials but was Vice Chair of the Republican Party of Texas, and is a Republican Party operative. All his films teach a revisionist history, that church and state should be intermixed, that banning prayer is the cause of increased teen pregnancies, drug use, and lower SAT scores, among many other ridiculous propositions. Mainstream Americans find this sort of revisionist and deceptive history as obscene.

I have provided to the City Council two lengthy articles by the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. They clearly refute the bogus theories, half-truths, and deceptive quotations used by Barton. I also included "Answering the Top 10 Lies about Church and State" from the same source.

Funding for this unconstitutional activity, to the tune of between \$2,800 and \$4,800 per year was proposed by then City Manager Bill Garrett, who is currently running for a GCCCD Board seat. The council approved this proposal with some discussion that it would expose the City to lawsuits. Indeed. I wonder why it costs \$2,800 per year to buy a video that retails for \$19.95.

It may be the case that this money was in fact illegal City contributions to the Texas Republican Party, laundered through the front of David Barton's "Wallbuilders" organization, and perhaps provided to Tom Delay's effort to illegally re-redistrict Texas. Thus far, the City has covered up the details of these illegal videos, unwilling to provide the daily logs required by City Council Policy A-25.

I will ask a third time. Please supply the logs for the last 5 years which you are required to keep.

The City must review this ugly situation and admit who suggested these revisionist videos, document the money trail, and make a new commitment to support the provisions of our constitution. I hereby request that the City Council vote on a resolution supporting the US Constitution, including the separation of Church and State as outlined by the First Amendment. Further, the City should have a special web page that clearly states this fact, formally disavows the content of the fraudulent videos, and provides the articles I mentioned that refute Barton's teachings.

To compensate for the unconstitutional endorsement of political and religious positions over the last four years, I hereby request that the City show films from opposing viewpoints for the same 2500 hour period. We requested that a film with a opposing viewpoint be shown but were denied by the City Manager. Please do not censor this material.

More information:

<http://www.eastcountydemocraticclub.org/twiki/bin/view/Common/GovernmentAccessChannel>