



City Commission

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July 2, 2010

Sharon Elster
301 174th Street
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160

RE: Public Record Request No. PR2010-524

Dear Ms. Elster:

We have searched our files and have found the following records responsive to your request(s):

- 1) Copy of Robert Solera's speech that he did not give at the Historic Preservation Meeting held on June 22, 2010 at City Hall concerning the land marking of the Synagogue Temple B'nai Zion in Sunny Isles Beach. Enclosed.

This concludes your public records request.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Francesca Pellot
Administrative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk

Robert Solera

*Did not
speak*

Good evening members of the Board, my name is Robert Solera, and for those of you who do not know me, I served for approximately 10 years as Staff for the City of Sunny Isles Beach. When I left in 2009 I was serving as the Community Development Director. As part of my duties, I also served as the Director of Code Enforcement. I am also a certified Code Officer.

I am not getting paid for being here tonight and I am not receiving any other consideration. I am here simply because I was extremely troubled to hear that the City was going after Temple B'Nai Zion again and attempting to designate the Temple's property, generally located at 200, 178th Street as a historic site.

In approximately the mid-2000's the City had several meetings discussing long term plans. During these meetings it became well known that the City had an interest in acquiring the Temple's property in an attempt to create a Town Center concept and also to prevent competition for a proposed Charter School.

*Received @ Historic Preservation
Bdmtx 6/22/10 R.K.P. 1*

The Temple, however, had other plans, and did not want to, as the City called it: "cut a deal". In approximately 2006, Kobe Karp met with City Staff to unveil plans to develop a building to contain the Temple's growing population.

During this exact same time something also happened between the Temple and the City's current Mayor. The Temple switched to a more religious sect. There also appeared to be some other differences that they had.

Shortly thereafter, the Mayor came to my office to advise that he believed that the Temple had been committing multiple code enforcement violations that immediately needed to be investigated. The Mayor ordered myself and Clay Parker, the Chief Building Official, to inspect the Temple's property and to cite the property for: Seating that had been placed outside; Rickshaws that had been placed outside to help transport infirmed congregants during the Sabbath; grass overgrowth; and some electrical work.

Upon getting the list from the Mayor, I immediately sent a Memorandum to the City Manager advising what I had been asked to do. Shortly thereafter,

my officers inspected the property and cited the property as instructed. The Mayor was at the Code Enforcement hearing to ensure that the orders had been followed out. **In** fact, if I recall, the minute the Mayor walked in, this matter was moved up to the top of the agenda.

Going after property's that the City had alternative plans for was not unusual. The City utilized similar tactics when it desired to acquire the Lagoon Restaurant (also a Jewish owner) under the 163rd Street Bridge.

Also, it became apparent that the Mayor had issues with other Orthodox temple's and I was asked to investigate the Orthodox Temple in the Ramada as well as another one off of 174th.

It was always strange to me that I was never asked to visit St. Mary Magdalene Church or other houses of worship.

The current attempt to designate the Temple's Property as historic is just another tactic that the City is attempting to utilize to devalue the site, to prevent the temple's expansion, and to eventually "cut a deal" so that the City can acquire the site.

I urge you to end the abuse and to vote no to the Temple's Historic Designation.

Thank you.



City of Sunny Isles Beach
Office of the City Clerk
 18070 Collins Avenue
 Sunny Isles Beach, Florida
 Phone (305)957-1303
 Fax (305) 947-3113

RECEIPT OF FUNDS

Date: 0. 1, 0 _____

Received \$ 1 ~104 in CaSh. or check (# _____)

From G/O, CD/7 Ed ~1 ~. PR 2010 - 524

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SPECIAL MASTER CODE ENFORCEMENT HEARING FINES AND COSTS.

- _____ Deposit funds into account: Code Enforcement Account **CEFF**
- _____ Deposit funds into account: Building Dept Penalties **8PEN**
- K** Deposit funds into account: General Fund Cash Receipt **8170**
- _____ Deposit funds into account: Accounts Receivable **M129**

Received by _____ / _____