



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 4, 2017

To: Chair and Members
Sales Tax Advisory Committee

From: C.H. Huckelberry 
County Administrator

Chair and Members
Transportation Advisory Committee

Re: **Pima County Supervisor Miller's 30-Day Challenge to Find Road Repair Money – Response Part 4**

This memorandum is Part 4 of a response to false and misleading information posted on Supervisor Ally Miller's webpage, regarding a variety of County expenditures that she alleges should instead be available to spend on road repair.

23. JobPath: June 20, 2017 - Supervisors were asked to approve an Outside Agency funding recommendation in the amount of \$500,000 (no contract was provided); June 20, 2017 - Chair Bronson signed Contract CT-ED-18-004 for \$600,000 which is \$100,000 more than the contract approved by the Supervisors on the same day of June 20, 2017; Funding Source: General Funds \$100,000

Supervisor Miller, when reviewing the Fiscal Year 2017/18 budget before voting on it June 20, must have missed the additional appropriation of \$100,000 to JobPath from the Budget Stabilization Fund as [listed on page 116 of the Adopted Budget](#).

JobPath helps address workforce development--a major priority of the County's Economic Development Plan--by providing essential workforce development services to Pima County residents. Funds complement federal, state and local workforce programs operated by the County, as well as Pima Community College programs.

Changes in retail jobs, manufacturing, health occupation, and construction trades resulting from increased automation and use of technology have changed the skills sets needed to compete in the marketplace.

The talent pool has shifted as more and more workers retire. While state and federal initiatives propose to move people from Medicaid into the talent pool, many of these people lack the soft skills and technical skills employers are looking for. They and many others in the talent pool are finding it difficult to land available high-paying jobs because they lack the

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technical skills or education. This forces local employers to recruit outside our region, which is expensive, to find workers to fill open positions.

24. Barker Contracting (pending approval): Agenda Item #9 Board meeting 11/7/17 - to provide for Pima County Historic Courthouse infrastructure; transfer out of the General Fund; total program budget: \$8.5 million; Supervisors Miller and Christy object; Supervisor Valadez offers substitute motion to continue the item \$850,679

The response to this [is the same as previously provided in my October 31, 2017 memorandum for claim #5](#). However, I will reiterate part of it here: This is a historic County facility for which we are responsible for maintaining, including significant repairs to the dome itself. It would be inappropriate to leave this iconic building as a vacant, deteriorating shell.

25. United Way (Employee Combined Appeal Program Campaigns): Four (4) contracts from 2014-2017 totaling \$233,910.23 paid for with General Funds. Supervisors Miller and Christy voted in opposition to the 2017 contract approved by the Board. \$233,910.23

It is extraordinarily sad that I have to defend a County partnership with United Way to raise money for charitable organizations. The Pima County Employee Combined Appeal (ECAP) is an efficient program that makes it easy for County employees to aid any number of hundreds of local charities through simple payroll deductions. It is a ubiquitous program conducted at governments and large employers across the state and the country by the United Way. A central charitable giving campaign gives employees more options for their donated dollars and gives charities with smaller budgets greater exposure to potential donors and supporters than they would be able to achieve through individual donor marketing campaigns. These campaigns are not without operating and administrative costs. The money is not magically deposited in charitable accounts; staff and software are needed to make that happen. These administrative costs are nominal and standard. As for County staff, about a dozen County employees *volunteer their time* to work with United Way to organize and promote the fundraising drive. We pay United Way a 15 percent administrative fee to help us make it easy for County employees to help their community. Paying this fee to help raise about \$400,000 a year for the less fortunate seems like a proper priority for County spending. Perhaps Supervisor Miller is unfamiliar with the good ECAP does for our community. [Here is a link where she can learn all about it](#) and maybe consider making a donation to a favored charity.

26. The Celebration of the \$70 million dollar "LOOP" ... these funds are designated for "Promotional Items" \$50,000

First of all, [as I have already explained in my October 31, 2017 memorandum](#) that the \$70 million for constructing The Loop is an inaccurate, misleading and specious amount. As for The Loop Celebration, it would serve Supervisor Miller better if she would do as the other Supervisors do and pick up the phone to call and ask me questions rather than jump to wrong conclusions. The funds for The Loop Completion Celebration are for the entire two-location event on March 17. The funds will pay for security, facilities, support logistics, marketing

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and advertising, among other things. The Loop is the most popular recreational amenity in the County. It is unique in the country in its size and scope. And this spring, sections along the Pantano and Rillito rivers will be completed along with the soil-cement bank protection segments being constructed in conjunction by the Regional Flood Control District. It is important the community know The Loop is completed and learn all of the recreational opportunities it offers along its 131 miles. That is why we are having a ribbon-cutting celebration. The Loop is an exceptional County amenity and we should all be immensely proud that we have invested in this regional asset. I hope to see Supervisor Miller at the celebration.

CHH/dr

Attachment

c: The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Tom Burke, Deputy County Administrator for Administration
Ana Olivares, Director, Transportation Department
Nicole Fyffe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator
Michael Racy, Racy Associates, Inc.