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## Aguirre accuses mayor of corruption

SIGNONSANDIEGO NEWS SERVICES

2:26 p.m. June 7, 2007

SAN DIEGO – San Diego's city attorney Thursday accused the mayor of bailing out a campaign contributor by secretly helping him put up an unsafe building near Montgomery Field.

Mayor Jerry Sanders denied City Attorney Mike Aguirre's claim that he was helping Sunroad Enterprises erect a building the Federal Aviation Administration believes would be a hazard to airplanes.

Sunroad owner Aaron Feldman reportedly contributed \$3,600 to Sanders' campaign and also donated \$1 million for the city to buy a firefighting helicopter after the devastating wildfires of a few years ago.

Even so, "nobody should be allowed to break the law," the mayor said. "That's why they have to lower the building 20 feet. The final decision is that we can't change the flight pattern."

Sunroad is building a \$45 million, 12-story office building near the city-owned Montgomery Field Airport in Kearny Mesa.

The city issued a permit for the project, even though it would be 20 feet higher than what the FAA deemed safe for air traffic. The city has since sued Sunroad to stop construction.

But Aguirre said Thursday that he was tipped off by a federal official that the city is secretly borrowing the services of Ted Sexton, chief operations officer for the San Diego Airport Authority, to find a way to change the flight patterns at Montgomery Field to allow the building to remain the same height.

He cited an agreement between the city and the airport authority that was signed without the city attorney's knowledge and was never placed on the City Council agenda.

"The mayor needs to explain exactly what activities occurred and why it happened. I will not go along with sweeping the Sunroad deal under the rug," Aguirre said.

Aguirre also said Sexton should not be working out of the city's Real Estate Resources Department.

Sanders said Sexton is not working on the Sunroad issue at all, but instead is helping the city determine if the airport authority rather than the city should operate Montgomery and Brown fields, which are now owned by the city. He added that Sexton is working in the real estate division because it oversees the operations of the two airfields.

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The Union-Tribune is interested in speaking with people who do jobs considered "highly offshorable," such as computer programmers, data entry clerks and telemarketers, for a story. Call or e-mail staff writer David Washburn at (619) 498-6653 or [david.washburn@uniontrib.com](mailto:david.washburn@uniontrib.com).

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**By 7 of 9 on 06/07/2007**

Can we change the flight pattern, and fine the heck out of SunToad? Maybe take possession of the building in question as a door prize.

If I have to follow the law, why don't they?

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**By Patrick on 06/07/2007**

If true (probably is), is anyone surprised?

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**By Doom Doctor on 06/07/2007**

Aguirre is Da Man !!!

It wont stop there either.....Murphy is complicit in lots of stuff JUST like this too. Aguirre will drag him out of the closet also.

Our local govt is embarrassing.  
Cheers to Mike Aguirre !

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**By BigBadWolf on 06/07/2007**

Aguirre has a big mouth that is out of control, but I have to agree with him on this one.

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**By BlueIsland on 06/07/2007**

Thank you for continuing to hold City Hall accountable, Mike.

Maybe Sanders needs to borrow one of your staff so that they can get some advice on how to behave un-corruply for a change.

Sanders, just resign and save us all a bunch of trouble. It isn't Sunroad or any other greedy business that is the problem: it's you and your corrupt, self-serving cabal. Yeah, sure, we are going to let you have authority to appoint the City Attorney and others that might dog you. Not now. Not ever.

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**By La Playa Heritage on 06/07/2007**

Sunroad is in collusion with the Mayor's office and Sunroad lawyers in deliberately delaying the adoption of the San Diego County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) which was supposed to be finalized in Spring 2005 until Sunroad received their illegal Building Permits from Mayor Sander's Development Services Department Director, Marcela Escobar-Eck in March 2006. The draft San Diego County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) was issued March 2005 and showed the Sunroad property in Aircraft Traffic Pattern Area (Zone 6) for Montgomery Field's Safety Compatibility Zone.

[http://www.laplayaheritage.com/Documents/AIRPORT/MYF\\_Compatibility\\_200503\\_Dr](http://www.laplayaheritage.com/Documents/AIRPORT/MYF_Compatibility_200503_Dr)  
Numerous comments were received in writing or offered at public meetings asking questions or making requests for modifications to the plan. One of the most extensively debated has been the definition of "existing land use." The definition of "existing land use" was first discussed at an ATAG Existing Land Use Subcommittee on November 21, 2005. The ATAG Existing Land Use Subcommittee was comprised of the following individuals: 6 of 11 (55 percent) are associated with Sunroad: John Ponder of Sheppard, Mullin-Sunroad lawyer and Sunroad Registered Lobbyist; Daryl Mutton of Sheppard, Mullin-Sunroad lawyer; Barbara Lichman of Chevalier Allen & Lichman LLP-Sunroad Lawyer; Paul Robinson of Hecht Solberg-Sunroad lawyer and Chamber of Commerce ATAG representative; Jerry Livingston of the Building Industry Association (BIA)-Sunroad is a member of the BIA; Tait Galloway of the City of San Diego Planning-City Planner who worked on the Sunroad project. The Existing Land Use Subcommittee decided that "existing land use" means after a City issues a Building Permit for a project. The Subcommittee came to their conclusions only after the first Building Permit was issued for Sunroad in March 2006.

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**By vegasnow on 06/07/2007**

So you lower the building height 20 feet....and in bad weather a student pilot slams into the building anyway.....change the darn flight plan!

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**By Bobbaloo36 on 06/07/2007**

Go Mike!! If you were around a few years ago the city wouldn't be in the financial hole it is today. I wish you would run for President...End corruption NOW

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**By vegasnow on 06/07/2007**

Buy the way....the FAA's recommendations are not LAW..just recommendations.....Madalay Bay and Luxor are mighty close to the Las Vegas airport, a much busier airport and no one seems to care....maybe Aguirre should move there....take french frye with you.

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**By DelMarJoe on 06/07/2007**

Murhphy is just a "pinanta withcandy" for the the developeres, McMillan, Sol Price, and all the othe loser mayor,, Ther hasnt bee any loeabdership for decards.

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**By jojoja on 06/07/2007**

The problem with Aguirre is that he is a pit bull that attacks anything within his reach. It doesnt matter if it is right or wrong or if it is in the best interest of the city. He has been wrong so many times and many of the charges he has made have never made it to court. He is a liablity to the city and seems to have an agenda to destroy it. Who ever disagrees with him all of a sudden is "corrupt". If he has been wrong many other times the obvious conclusion is that he is probably wrong this time also and again the city will pay. Change the flight plan.

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**By chickenlipsmom on 06/07/2007**

Can the flight plan really be changed? There's a lot to consider when you do that. No, the mayor is not corrupt. Mr. Aguirre is a go getter. It's his personality. He just overreacts.

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**By Billyball on 06/07/2007**

I know this sounds stupid, but here in Hawaii I'm at a loss to know where the building is located. I had to come over there in May, but I couldn't find it. Where is this thing?

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**By questdocdal on 06/07/2007**

GET REAL VEGASNOW, WHY SHOULD A GREEDY, CORRUPT DEVELOPMENT COMPANY GET TO BYPASS LAWSAND/OR RECCOMMENDATIONS THAT THE FAA PUT OUT THERE FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CITIZENS OF (AND VISITORS TO) SAN DIEGO. JUST BECAUSE THEY HAVE \$\$ TO PAY OFF OFFICIALS THEY GET TO DO AS THEY PLEASE? THE CORRUPTION IN THIS CITY IS DISGUSTING, I FOR ONE, AM GRATEFUL WE HAVE AT LEAST ONE PERSON OF INTEGRITY HERE, THANKS MIKE AGUIRRE, MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE MAYOR

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**By jojoja on 06/07/2007**

Hey questdocdal, its uninformed people like you that are more afraid to be called "corrupt" because you disagree with Aguirre that this city is not standing up for itself. I do not care for Sanders but with our system of checks and balances in our city government, how can every department in the city be corrupt? Come on quest, think for yourself, not have Aguirre think for you.

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**By thisiscrazy on 06/07/2007**

jojoba - every department? give me a break. stop sensationalizing the issue. First of all, there are very very few checks and balances currently enforced - especially considering that many doing the "checking" arent necessarily the most ethical people ive ever met. Are you not going to admit there have recently been validated charges of corruption or at the very least "special favors" within SDDP, Development Services, City Councilmembers, the Mayor's Office, Planning, etc?

Get informed.

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**By jojoja on 06/07/2007**

thisiscrazy, looks like you are another Aguirre "disciple" so it is no use to explain anything to you either.

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**By genxer65 on 06/07/2007**

When's the next election? I am soooo ready for Mike Aguirre to be replaced. I moved out of the the city five years ago and I haven't looked back. Aguirre is first and foremost an attorney and they are usually the furthest from the law. Jerry Sanders took on a tremendous task...Mr. Aguirre...Get a Life!

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**By thisiscrazy on 06/07/2007**

jojoba - please... "explain"

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**By rmintzer on 06/07/2007**

MIKE AGUIRRE, THANK YOU!

jojoba-

"doesnt matter if it is right or wrong"

"Who ever disagrees with him all of a sudden is "corrupt""

"the obvious conclusion is that he is probably wrong this time also and again the city will pay. Change the flight plan."

Mike Aguirre is concerned about matters that are unlawful.

He could care less if everyone disagrees with him.

"Obvious" and "Probably" are contradictory (it's obvious you don't know what you are talking about).

Oh yeah, the city will pay... Millions of dollars when they are sued because a family, in a small plane crashes into the Sunroad building, using the city approved modified flight path.

THANKS AGAIN, MIKE!

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**By okonkolo on 06/07/2007**

I am amazed that people react to Aguirre's personality more than the accusations he has leveled. If these are true, they are yet another example of the insiderism that has gutted this city for the benefit of the few. Aguirre's a jerk, but he appears to be the only outsider with any ability to call out the insiders that are still doing their back room deals at the taxpayers expense. If this is true, Mayor Sanders has a lot of explaining to do,. If it is not, Aguirre needs to apologize. But maybe this being aired will gut the back room deal. And the city will be better for it. And, btw, you won't be advocating flight lane changes if they increase the noise in your neighborhood.

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