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- Biotech
- Markets
- In Depth
- In Iraq
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- Special Reports
- Multimedia
- Photo Galleries
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- Education
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- Health | Fitness
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- Science
- Solutions
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- U-T South County
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- Calendar
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- Weather
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News | San Diego

## Mayor accepts resignation of Sunroad advocate

By Jeff McDonald and David Hasemyer

UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

12:26 p.m. August 14, 2007

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SAN DIEGO – San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders has accepted the resignation of James Waring, the land use and economic development chief who took it upon himself to broker a compromise in a dispute with a developer who constructed a building near Montgomery Field that violates federal height limits.

Waring, who was lauded as a planning and development guru when he came aboard in January 2006, offered his resignation Monday, when it became clear he was working to allow the Kearny Mesa office tower built by Sunroad Enterprises to remain in excess of 160 feet.

Sanders accepted the offer Tuesday, effective immediately.

In June Sanders declared the 180-foot building a safety hazard to pilots landing at Montgomery Field and ordered the top floors of the building removed.

But last week, Waring asked Councilwoman Donna Frye privately if she would support allowing the building to be reduced to 166 feet, saving the developer money and floor space.

Frye rejected the idea.

When news circulated that Waring was still brokering compromises for the developer, he offered his resignation.

“Jim's done a great job in some areas and in other areas, we all make mistakes,” Sanders said in an interview Tuesday.



James Waring

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### From today's U-T:

- [City official lobbies for Sunroad compromise](#)

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## Overview

**Background:** Sunroad Enterprises built a 180-foot office tower in Kearny Mesa even though the Federal Aviation Administration said it posed a hazard to pilots landing at Montgomery Field in bad weather. In June, Mayor Jerry Sanders ordered that the top 20 feet of the building be removed.

**What's happening:** James Waring, chief of land use and economic development for the city, last week asked Councilwoman Donna Frye to endorse a compromise that would allow the building to exceed the FAA's 160-foot height limit. The mayor's office yesterday said it did not know about or condone Waring's actions.

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By [sunroadsux](#) on 08/14/2007

Check his bank account...s. The Feldmans are sucking this city dry.

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**By The Big Churro on 08/14/2007**

"Jim's done a great job in some areas and in other areas, we all make mistakes," Sanders said in an interview Tuesday.

Sanders made a mistake hiring Waring.

Sanders made a second mistake by lying to the public about his and Waring's actions and intentions.

Sanders made a third mistake trying to cover up the corruption and incompetence with a useless investigation performed by a department under his control.

Recall Jerry "Sunroad" Sanders.

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**By ottoknow on 08/14/2007**

Wonder where Waring's going to work next?

Could it be ..... Sunroad, or any of the other \$anders-backing developers who run this town?

Mike Aguirre fixed this!

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**By Bud\_SD on 08/14/2007**

Good riddance! Now, he can follow the previous bozo and accept his dream position with Sunroad. I think the public has finally had enough with the rampant corruption that's permeated the 'upper echelons' of San Diego, for decades. On a separate note, Colonel Sanders doesn't have the honor to resign.

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**By Bud\_SD on 08/14/2007**

"Monday, when it became clear he was working to allow the Kearny Mesa office tower built by Sunroad Enterprises to remain in excess of 160 feet."

With all of the events lately... he is STILL trying to weasel around the rules and broker backroom deals. Unbelievable! He's certainly not the sharpest tool in the shed.

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**By NoMoreGrapeKoolAid on 08/14/2007**

You guys just don't get it...this was a good man who came from the real world and got swallowed whole by the abyss that is the City of San Diego....he tried to do good to his last day and got the shaft for it....anyone of you should try and do your job with a totally ineffective City Attorney more interested in squirrels in Balboa Park rather than working WITH the rest of the team in San Diego.....San Diego just took another hit today and in the long term, it means a loss for everyone....

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**By nowburg on 08/14/2007**

Good riddance. He's corrupt.

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**By SD Dude on 08/14/2007**

Maybe Chula Vista will hire him to sort out the Gaylord debacle?

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**By free\_san\_diego on 08/14/2007**

Perfect name, NoMoreGrapeKoolAid - you've had enough already. In fact, you are totally overdosed and brain dead.

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**By TSeeker on 08/14/2007**

The question is did Sanders know about Warings actions... and why would Waring do this on his own without the blessing of his bosses? I have a feeling this story is not over. I would like to see Warings e-mails on this matter.

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**By enlightened1 on 08/14/2007**

This guy accepted a cushy position so he could do his and Sanders cronies favors, set them up with sweetheart giveaway land deals, and then walk away sitting pretty when Sanders is done doing his dirty work and puts the city into bankruptcy, saying he did all he could do.

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**By NativeSon on 08/14/2007**

From the UT AM article:  
"Jim is out of the country," Sainz said. "I need to track him down and understand what his part of the conversation is."

From the Bowtie Guy editorial:  
"Yesterday the city's chief of land use and economic development, Jim Waring, informed the Mayor's Office from Iceland, where he was vacationing, that he will resign on his own accord."

Now that Fred Sainz finally tracked Jim Waring down, one can only hope he gets some pointers on what to do after Sainz's services(!) to the city are no longer required. Maybe Tom Story will let the soon-to-be Sunroad lobbyist Jim Waring hire him as a personal assistant. And, by the way, soon-to-be-let-go Sunroad lobbyist Mitch Berner, your services are no longer required dude.

As far as I'm concerned, Jerry "Sunroad" Sanders' services are no longer required either. I bet Tom Story also has got a slot at Sunroad for a disgraced ex-Mayor.

We're getting sick of the "aw shucks, Jim's done a great job in some areas and in other areas, we all make mistakes. Now willya stop going after me if I fire Marcela Escobar-Eck, PLEASE let's move on" jive talk from the Colonel. Maybe he Jerry can continue his services to Aaron Feldman closeup and personal.

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**By teacherman on 08/14/2007**

"working WITH the rest of the team in San Diego"

Does that mean selling yourself to developers? Business as usual at San Diego City Hall is not necessarily what the "real world" is about and should not be condoned. I wonder if the cash flow will taper off now that the real estate market is tight and light is being pointed at the dark corners.

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