
From: Mark Kruea <MKruea@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2016 9:41 PM
To: Myrtle Beach Minute; John Pedersen
Cc: Haley, Nikki; Luke Rankin; A. A. Dunham, MA; Webb, Beth; Al Blondin; plogan@scag.gov; smiles@wmbfnews.com; wlhuggins@wpde.com; Robert Juback; residents@residentsrights.org; Tom Ellenburg; Tom.Rice@mail.house.gov; mhyman@coker.edu
Subject: RE: 3rd News request: Foia request for monies Mayor Rhodes Spent in China
Attachments: FOIA Tax Funds For China; Foia Ammended request; 20160416180936553.pdf; John Rhodes 2007 Ireland.pdf

Mr. Hucks...

First, I have never refused to comply with a request from you for access to public documents. My responses to your previous requests have been prompt and timely, in keeping with the requirements of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Second, you requested Mayor John Rhodes' travel expenses for his trips to China at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 18. That was four days ago. Your second request came an hour later and was amended to include Mr. Rhodes' expenses for "all of his international travel" during his term as mayor. For the benefit of those who are on your CC list, I am attaching those earlier e-mails to this message. Your third request – unchanged – arrived tonight at 8:44 p.m.

Third, in response to these multiple requests for access to public documents, I am hereby attaching the mayor's travel expense reports for seven trips to China and one trip to Ireland. Note that some of the amounts listed on the attached receipts are in Chinese yaun, not U.S. dollars. The city did not have expenses for the mayor's other trip to China; consequently, no report is attached.

Fourth, several local news media and at least two members of the public did make such requests for these documents some weeks ago, and I responded in a timely manner with the same information attached here.

Finally, this completes my response to your requests of March 18, March 18 and March 22, 2016, for access to public documents under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, well before the 15-working day deadline of June 8, 2016.

Mark Kruea
Public Information Officer
City of Myrtle Beach

From: Myrtle Beach Minute [mailto:david@myrtlebeachsc.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2016 8:44 PM
To: Mark Kruea; John Pedersen
Cc: Nikki Haley; Luke Rankin; A. A. Dunham, MA; Governor Nikki Haley; Al Blondin; plogan@scag.gov; smiles@wmbfnews.com; wlhuggins@wpde.com; Robert Juback; residents@residentsrights.org; Tom Ellenburg; Tom.Rice@mail.house.gov; mhyman@coker.edu
Subject: 3rd News request: Foia request for monies Mayor Rhodes Spent in China

Mark,

This is our 3rd request for the below with no word from you personally. The public deserves to know how our tax dollars are being spent and what city government believes are its highest priorities.

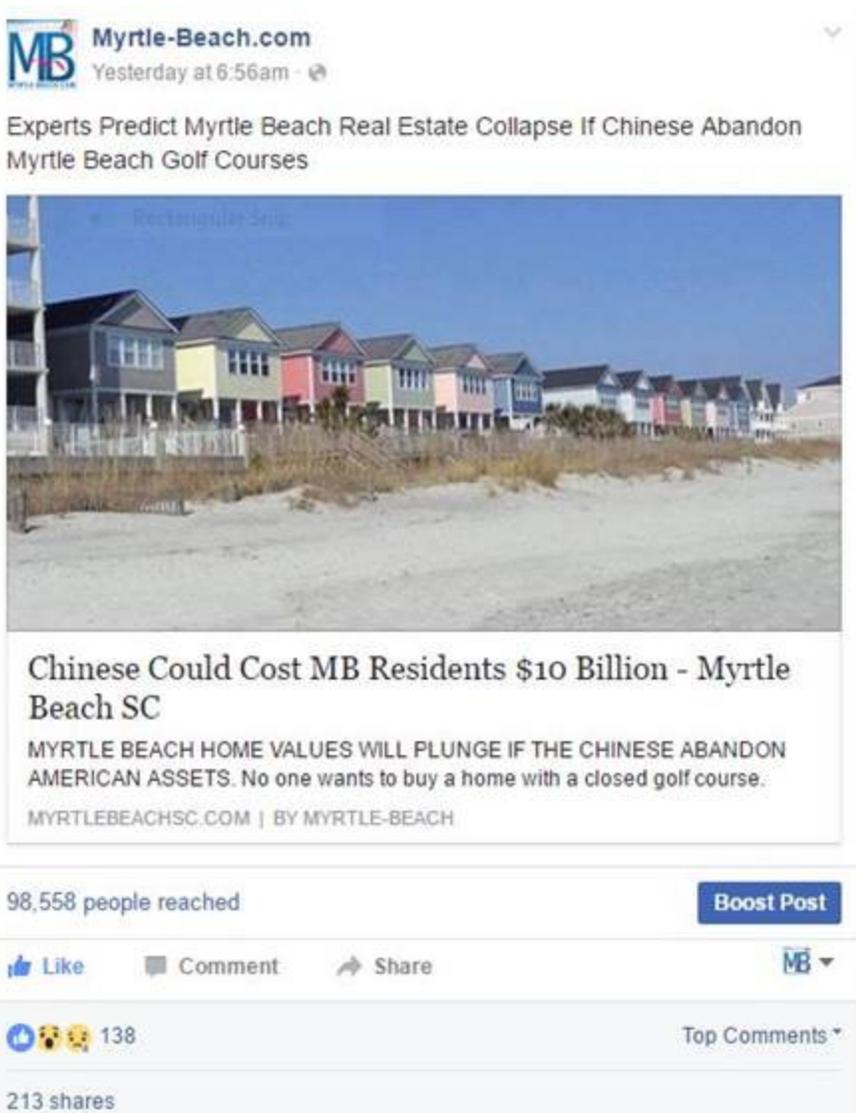
"please provide an accounting of total expenses incurred by the Mayor in conjunction with all of his international travel during his tenure as mayor, including, but not limited to his 8(*) visits to China while representing the Myrtle Beach taxpayers in his pursuit of the Chinese investment into the Myrtle Beach Economy"

(* was it actually 8 trips?)

Had you provided this information timely, it would have given valuable insight into [this story](#) below, concerning a follow up of Alan Blondin's Chinese Ponzi Scheme/Dan Liu Chinese issues, which went up on Saturday.

Horry County residents, including THE RESIDENTS RIGHTS MOVEMENT group, found this story of high value as it addressed local home values and concerns that relate to this Golf Course Owner's issues.

Mark - the law is on our news team's side here as to your responsibility to provide these requests. The last time you refused to comply, we were required to forward our request to legal. This does grow tiresome and impedes with the public's need for timely information.



The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook post from the page 'Myrtle-Beach.com'. The post is dated 'Yesterday at 6:56am'. The headline reads 'Experts Predict Myrtle Beach Real Estate Collapse If Chinese Abandon Myrtle Beach Golf Courses'. Below the headline is a photograph of a row of colorful, modern houses with gabled roofs, situated on a sandy beach with dunes in the foreground. The caption below the photo says 'Chinese Could Cost MB Residents \$10 Billion - Myrtle Beach SC' and includes a sub-headline: 'MYRTLE BEACH HOME VALUES WILL PLUNGE IF THE CHINESE ABANDON AMERICAN ASSETS. No one wants to buy a home with a closed golf course.' At the bottom of the post, it says 'MYRTLEBEACHSC.COM | BY MYRTLE-BEACH'. The post has '98,558 people reached', '213 shares', and '138' reactions (likes, loves, etc.). There are buttons for 'Like', 'Comment', 'Share', and 'Boost Post'. A 'Top Comments' dropdown is also visible.

As you can see from the reach and comments above, this story was primarily a "locals" of interest story. These are largely local readers and local shares.

While it was only shared 213 times from this one post, as you can see, each of these had shares from their own pages as below. We scoured the web and shares ran from 2 to 58 as below from each of those who shared it. The average number of re-shares locally were 5.



Buzz Martin

Yesterday at 7:26am · Murrells Inlet, SC · 🌐

MB Area -- PLEASE SHARE! -- What a lot of people have been thinking, but most of the area's media outlets are too bought-out to state publicly. Certain people accuse David L Hucks and his team of not being honest in their reporting -- with absolutely no proof that this is so. But the same people seem to have no trouble with media such as WPDE, WMBF and others either distorting the truth (to spin it favorably for the chamber, county and city), or lying by the omission of important stories and facts.



Chinese Could Cost MB Residents \$10 Billion - Myrtle Beach SC

MYRTLE BEACH HOME VALUES WILL PLUNGE IF THE CHINESE ABANDON AMERICAN ASSETS. No one wants to buy a home with a closed golf course.

MYRTLEBEACHSC.COM | BY MYRTLE-BEACH

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

👍 😬 😱 You, Marcia Lynn, Larry Schwartz and 21 others

58 shares

Had any of the Chamber of Commerce subsidized media above made the same request as we did, you would have complied promptly.

We do not take funds from the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and we never will.

This in no way makes us a non legitimate news source.

Outside of Alan Blondin, we are the only local news source that will approach this very critical subject.

The citizens of Myrtle Beach will need some answers here.

Please comply with the above request as this story has developed.

Sincerely,

David Hucks



MyrtleBeachSC News

Myrtle Beach Daily News in 1 Minute Flat

On Wed, May 18, 2016 at 11:30 AM, Myrtle Beach Minute <david@myrtlebeachsc.com> wrote:

Mark,

To be precise

"please provide an accounting of total expenses incurred by the Mayor in conjunction with all of his international travel during his tenure as mayor, including, but not limited to his 8(*) visits to China while representing the Myrtle Beach taxpayers in his pursuit of the Chinese investment into the Myrtle Beach Economy"

(* was it actually 8 trips?)

Sincerely,

David Hucks



MyrtleBeachSC News

Myrtle Beach Daily News in 1 Minute Flat

MyrtleBeachSC.com

[FIND YOUR NEWS ON FACEBOOK](https://www.facebook.com/SCMyrtleBeach) Facebook.com/SCMyrtleBeach

On Wed, May 18, 2016 at 10:30 AM, Myrtle Beach Minute <david@myrtlebeachsc.com> wrote:

Mark,

We are doing a follow up on the recent Alan Blondin story concerning China.

Could you please send us a total in tax funds Mayor Rhodes has spent on his 8 visits to China that we have a record of?

Sincerely,

David Hucks



MyrtleBeachSC News

Myrtle Beach Daily News in 1 Minute Flat

MyrtleBeachSC.com

[FIND YOUR NEWS ON FACEBOOK](https://www.facebook.com/SCMyrtleBeach) Facebook.com/SCMyrtleBeach

*** WARNING *** All e-mail correspondence to and from this address may be subject to public disclosure under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act(FOIA). 2007