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Sent: 1/21/2015 11:39:35 AM
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Subject: Re: IMPORTANT: Committee for CVB Reform proposal/agenda

Skip: I agree 100% with a discontinuation of the hard copy visitors guide published by the Chamber. In my every day role as a travel and meeting-and-convention journalist (and someone who talks to CVBS around the cou daily), I find that a large majority of CVBs have discontinued or are discontinuing their printed guides because in the Internet age, they are indeed obsolete and therefore, a waste of public money. In addition, as you have argued successfully, they also compete unfairly with local media companes.
I will make the final revisions to our "manifesto" and then distribute the final version, per your instructions.
Thanks.

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Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 5:46 PM
Subject: Re: IMPORTANT: Committee for CVB Reform proposal/agenda

Excellent draft of guidelines . I have little to add other than a possible explanation on the Chamber website which should be a directory based type site promoting all local tourism related businesses , a easy accessible media listing by category for users to seek that particular local media info . This is how to support versus unfairly compete . CVb website would have lots of generic promotional video and pictures of destination . The Chamber / CVb visitors guide should be terminated as it can not be distributed locally to compete with local tax paying media members and to send it out to anyone requesting info on HHI with most using the Internet is a complete waste of money , effort and would offer very little results to advertisers . In fact abuse advertisers thinking they might be getting more than they infact are . Also audit needs to confirm how many copies they actually print and how this is distributed ?

Also add required to bid out all jobs for goods and services locally over 2-3k ? This chamber / CVb has and still is abusing this community in this fair open bidding process. Members have come forward and publicly stated they were abused in this unfair non existent process .

Explain in more detail on a Chamber function and Cvb function to show how opposite business models they are ,with totally different boards member and community needs . Bottom line a chambers function is purely a local business league and mission to promote local businesses to prosper in the community nothing more nothing less ,and a CVb function is to invest our local tax dollars to increase tourism and meetings to our city . A chamber and cvb like any business needs to operate off the money it receives / a budget wisely and responsibly and not be in any business selling anything under any circumstance that violates IRS , unfair trade , or competes with local tax paying for profit businesses ,especially when this is done with the intention of competing against local companies and to further fund and abuse with excessive salaries and expenses that are not needed nor never originally intended as a business model for a chamber or CVb .

At some point this report will become a full page ad and local officials must adopt some form of these guide lines to continue getting public support. I think the recent 65-35% vote for a new mayor sent a loud clear message on transparency , accountability and performance measures . Also the LEA closing its doors .

John I am proud to help lead the new CVb reform council movement in SC as well as our local Beaufort County Watch Dog group. Full page ads will be taken out in all local papers , websites etc to target those who do not endorse transparency , accountability and performance measures or those who refuse to take a position or act like our past Mayor did . I think all we are doing will be very effective as an independent outside watch dog that people have learned to respect , trust and count on for accurate unbiased information . Political ads will fall on deaf ears , it's our Watch dog ads people can count on for facts and truth