

Senate Republican
Member Project Release Form

Date: 3/30/2001

Senator: Senator Chris Lauzen

Project Description: central business district artwork project

Dollar Amount: \$10,000

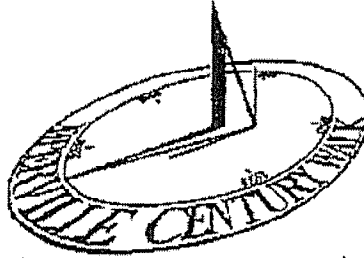
Local Contact Name & Title:

Patricia Springer
Administrator
Century Walk Corporation

Local Contact Address & Phone Number:

1800 East Denison Road
Naperville, IL 60565
630/369-2929

If split project, please list with whom and the dollar amount here:



November 3, 2006

Ms. Cornelia Grumman, Editorial Board
Chicago Tribune Newspaper
435 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611-4041

RE: Endorsement for Illinois Senate

Dear Ms. Grumman:

Reference is made to the above and specifically to your failure to endorse State Senator Chris Lauzen apparently because he "secured \$10,000 for stained-glass windows in a Naperville parking garage". As President of Century Walk Corporation, it is my responsibility to inform you of the circumstances giving rise to your spurious opinion rejecting Mr. Lauzen for his being inconsistent with his renowned determination to eliminate wasteful state spending on "pork".

To better explain what happened, I have enclosed our most recent brochure from 2004 which includes 22 art pieces including "Cars of the Century" which was dedicated in 2001 and the project to which you referenced. Our organization is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation formed in 1996 to promote public art in Naperville by featuring people, places and events of local significance during the 20th Century. To date we have approximately two million dollars of art in place of which a little over half has come from the private sector.

As you can see from the brochure each year the number of pieces created varies. In 2001 four additions were made, with the stained glass mural being one of them. We receive monies for our art from a great number of private citizens as well as a number of public bodies—the Illinois Arts Council, Naperville City Council, etc. We have an established track record so we're not required to dedicate one's contribution to a particular project, though we will if requested.

Monies we receive, regardless of the source, are placed into a general operating fund and disbursed by our Board of Directors as required. We were particularly pleased to receive the \$10,000 contribution from Mr. Lauzen, a State Senator at that time representing parts of Naperville. For such a public official to secure funds for our work serves as a tremendous endorsement of our mission. His grant described the project description as "central business district artwork project". As the brochure map points out—all of our art is located in or near to the central business district. He never earmarked his grant for a specific art creation. In fact, I'm not sure he even knew about the stained-glass project. We simply commingled the funds with other donations and paid them out as we needed.

CENTURY WALK CORPORATION

50 West Chicago Avenue

Naperville, Illinois 60540

630-355-5558

Fax 630-355-5768

Ms. Cornelia Grumman, Editorial Board
November 3, 2006
Page 2

We all know that art is in the eye of the beholder. We at Century Walk actually believe that this particular place fits our mission quite well: It's about seven auto dealers who once were located within three blocks of the facility, stained-glass is a great art medium, and it's the focal point of a \$7.5 million city-owned parking deck! Where else but Naperville could this happen?

Our admonition to you when working on endorsements would be to get all the facts before jumping to conclusions. People trust your opinions because they rely on your basing them on facts. When you don't have all the facts you betray that trust. Mr. Lauzen made the proper decision here for his constituents. It's too bad you stopped short of learning this. We also take exception with your paper originally referring to us as some "local arts group". Though literally correct, we hope you can see that we're much more substantial than those words would leave one to believe.

I would be pleased to entertain any questions you may still harbor. I think you owe Mr. Lauzen an apology for basing your endorsement on incomplete information even though you still may not change it.

Very truly yours,

W. Brand Bobosky, President
Century Walk Corporation

WBB/jsk
Enclosure

P.S. On a personal note I have been a subscriber to the *Chicago Tribune* for over 35 consecutive years.