

# 20TH ANNUAL WASTE OF ANAHEIM



## The TRUTH about your hosts THE ANAHEIM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ready to enjoy today's event? Be sure you do! You're paying for it. Twice.

Did you know the City of Anaheim pays the Chamber of Commerce over \$160,000 a year to host a few events, including today's. Taxpayers also pay the Chamber \$25,000 to advertise the City of Anaheim in print and electronic media.

Oh, you didn't know you're paying for an event you actually sponsored? Feel cheated? Well, you're about to pay a whole lot more for things you didn't know about, courtesy of the Chamber . . .

For starters, the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce championed the massive new high speed rail(less) train station in Anaheim. It cost taxpayers \$188,000,000 on the promise of immediate increases in passenger counts and revenue.

### **IT FAILED.**

It will cost Anaheim taxpayers roughly \$4,000,000 a year every year just to keep the station running. High speed rail, if it's ever built, isn't scheduled for Anaheim until 2040. That's \$100,000,000 straight out of your pocket-- just to keep the doors open until the train gets there! Do you think we should pay that kind of money for a fancy light show off the 57? We don't either.

So how did this happen? Well, the numbers used to project how many people would ride the train and how they would spend their money, numbers the Chamber supported, were completely made up.

### **Seriously. Total fabrications.**

We spent hundreds of millions of dollars at the Chamber's behest because of bad math. This wasn't an honest mistake or a rounding error-- this was a complete obliteration of the truth.

What's worse, this isn't even the first (or last) time the Chamber has used fuzzy math to get its hands on your tax dollars. Flip the page over for a few highlights on their recent hits.

### **1. LIE about the Resort District:**

“As a community we depend on the health of our tourism industry to supply more than half of our city’s tax revenue, which in turn supports vital city services such as police and fire, parks and libraries for all citizens.”

#### **TRUTH:**

The City budget shows the Resort generates about 20% of General Fund revenues, not counting the cost of the Convention Center, which runs a deficit after expenses. In 1997, Disney and Anaheim taxpayers invested in California Adventure, Downtown Disney, The Grand Californian Hotel, and the Mickey & Friends Parking Structure. Taxpayers receive ZERO return on the investment. Every penny of sales tax, bed tax, and property tax from these Disney projects since 1997 goes to repay the bonds – not to “vital city services.”

#### **WHY:**

The Chamber wants you to feel like you owe something to Disney. Your property taxes keep this city running, including its vital city services. Without your taxes, the resort fails-- not the other way around.



**Todd Ament**

### **2. LIE about the Angel Stadium negotiations:**

“We also want the City Council to know that we support the framework of the (Angels) negotiations, which would not come at taxpayer expense while keeping the team here.” – Todd Ament

#### **TRUTH:**

The framework they are referring to would allow Angel’s owner Arte Moreno to lease the entire parking lot for a \$1 year with no strings attached, no obligation to fix the stadium (which is included in the current lease), to share revenue with the city, or keep the Angels in Anaheim. It was an insanely lop sided deal.

#### **WHY:**

Again, the Chamber wants you to feel you owe something to the Angels. Your property taxes built the Angels into the organization it is today. The City should be a partner, not a doormat.

### **3. LIE about the GardenWalk Hotel development:**

“It’s short term, with no cost to the city, it’s credits against future revenues, and at the end of the day we will be receiving over \$20 million a year to pay for our police, fire services, and graffiti removal.” – Todd Ament

#### **TRUTH:**

Anaheim city council members voted to giveaway \$158 million in future tax revenue to a well-connected hotelier if he builds a 4-star luxury hotel here next to the mall. How is that at “no cost to the city?”

#### **WHY:**

The Chamber wants you to feel like you owe a hotel builder something. Did you get a raise this year? Was the federal government nice enough to give you that raise tax free because you’d be boosting the local economy? Of course not. Taxes are taxes and the idea that giving away future tax revenue comes at no cost is flat out ridiculous.

### **4. LIE about the Enterprise Zone:**

“The program is working fantastic,” said Ament. “It’s doing what it’s supposed to do, which in the end helps keep jobs here in California” and lower crime.

#### **TRUTH:**

The program didn’t create new jobs it simply enabled the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce to give state tax credits to it’s members. The majority of which went to Disney and Walmart, while the Chamber collected a healthy fee for the service. In fact, we had to pay them extra after the Chamber figured out it had “underestimated” its bid for the contract it received.

#### **WHY:**

The Chamber wants you to think we owe it something for giving back to Main Street. Disney Parks posted record profit years while the Chamber’s contract was in effect. Walmart wasn’t exactly hurting either. That’s not giving back. It’s just taking more.

**Tired of it? Find Todd Ament today and ask him why you had to pay the bill today-- twice. While you’re at it, be sure to ask him when he’s going to pay the \$200,000+ the Chamber owes in back taxes. You pay your tax bill on time-- so should he.**

**We deserve a Chamber of Commerce that sells Anaheim, not one that sells Anaheim out.**