

February 17, 2010

Attorney General Rob McKenna
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Dear Attorney General McKenna:

The Port of Seattle is currently being sued by two different taxi cab companies for how it handled the process of bidding a new contract for on-demand taxi service at Sea-Tac International Airport.

The latest lawsuit, filed by Farwest Taxi (Rainier Dispatch) alleges that Yellow Cab lobbyist Chris Van Dyk essentially cheated on the proposal, and the Port of Seattle looked the other way.

We urge you to investigate the Port of Seattle, and lobbyist Chris Van Dyk for allegations of collusion on a public RFP process.


According to Farwest's lawsuit, Van Dyk drafted the bid for a joint venture between Yellow Cab, Farwest and Orange Cab. Then he turned around and used that insider information of two former partners to draft a more competitive bid for Yellow Cab, which ended up prevailing.

Van Dyk knew trade secrets of the two other bidders in the joint venture, and used that proprietary intellectual property to ensure Yellow Cab submitted the top bid. Van Dyk acknowledged in media stories that he did indeed write both bids.

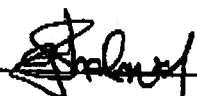
We are at a loss for how the Port could ignore obvious collusion. The Port's own RFP states: *"One or all responses will be rejected if there is reason for believing that collusion exists among Proposers, and no participant in such collusion will be considered in future proposals for concessions at the Airport."* [RFP, 13.4.1, p. 6]

Now the Port faces two lawsuits, one for ignoring collusion and another for violating its revenue collection plan. But it still is pushing to sign a contract with Yellow Cab. We urge you to investigate both the Port of Seattle and lobbyist Chris Van Dyk. King County cab companies just want a fair shot to compete for this contract.

Thank you for your time,

 2/17/10

Jesse Buttar, STITA member

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Gurcharan Dhaliwal, president of Rainier Dispatch