

STATEMENT FROM THE CITY OF CEDAR HILLS
OCTOBER 9, 2012

A resident recently published some inaccurate or misleading information about the city. The City is committed to making sure that residents receive accurate information about issues facing our city, so that we can better work together to make Cedar Hills a great place to live. This statement addresses some recent claims about the golf course and related policies and events.

Statement #1 – “Why is former Mayor Brad Sears still receiving free golf?”

Response – No former employees or city officials receive free golf as a matter of policy. The City does offer free items such as golf passes or Family Festival tickets for residents who volunteer their time to help with City-related functions, such as the Family Festival or Golf Tournaments. All residents, including former officials, may receive free items from the City when volunteering for these and similar events.

Statement #2 – “Why are the Mayor, City Council, and City staff given unlimited free golf?”

Response – All employees are given certain benefits, one of which is free golf. Specifically, golf employees are allowed to golf for free when it does not interfere with paying customers. Golf employees are to use this time to identify any concerns with the course and bring them up with the Golf Course Manager. All other employees are allowed to golf for free during their time off when it does not interfere with paying customers and are not allowed to book a tee time but instead will play on “standby”, meaning employees are required to wait for an available spot. The Mayor and Council are only allowed to golf for free when bringing a paying customer with them.

Statement #3 – “Why did chairman Gary Gygi invite former Mayor Brad Sears to address the first Golf Finance Committee meeting?”

As chairman of the Golf Course Finance Advisory Committee, Mayor Gygi wanted each member to have the full story on the golf course from the very beginning. Mr. Sears was invited to give a brief summary on how Cedar Hills ended up with the golf course as he was the Mayor during the time. Other residents who have done research on, or been involved with the golf course have also been invited to share their information.

Statement #4 – “If City leaders don’t have anything to hide, why have they spent tens of thousands our tax dollars in legal fees to hide and withhold as much as possible?”

As mentioned in a previous statement, GRAMA law requires the City to redact and withhold any information that is considered private, controlled, and/or protected. Releasing this information is illegal and could result in criminal penalties against any individual who knowingly does so. The City is required to follow this portion of the GRAMA law just as much as it is required to follow the laws that allow the public to receive access to public records. The only information that has been withheld from this GRAMA request is information that is private, controlled, and/or protected.

The City will continue to address any incorrect or misleading data that is presented and encourage residents to visit the City’s website to receive these updates. Residents who have questions are encouraged to contact Mayor Gary Gygi or City Manager David Bunker. Contact information can be found online at www.cedarhills.org.

Media inquiries can be sent to Jenney Rees at jrees@cedarhills.org