

DOCUMENTS TO TENDER – TONY ABBOUD

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John Neish

From:

Tony Abboud [tonyabboud@snowdenparkes.com.au]

Sent:

Friday, 6 July 2012 3:28 PM

To:

John Neish

Subject:

Summary of events

Attachments: Notes on approach from John Goubran re Ryde Council.doc

Hi John

Please find attached the summary of events as I recall them, that led to our meeting on Friday 13th April

Please let me know if you require any further information

Regards,

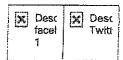
Tony Abboud

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http://www.facebook.com/pages/Snowden-Parkes-Real-Estate/319125272773 http://twitter.com/1tonyabboud

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On Friday 30th March 2012, I received a phone message to call John Goubran. When I returned his call, he said that he had left multiple messages and accused me of not returning his calls. I indicated to him that I had not received those messages and this was the first one that I was aware of and thus was now returning the call.

He indicated that there were a few things that he wanted to discuss with me and asked that he preferred that I meet him. We agreed that we would meet at his office in College Street Gladesville on Tuesday 3rd April 2012 at 8am.

I was aware that he had for some time been trying to get a DA approval from Ryde Council for a residential development at Eastwood and that he wasn't happy with the progress. I assumed that this was the purpose of the meeting.

In fact, at the beginning of the meeting, this is what we discussed. He indicated to me that he was upset with Council because after months of negotiations, they had referred his application to an external assessor and he felt he had to start all over again.

After discussing his project, the discussion went on to the Civic Centre redevelopment. I shared with him my point of view about favouring the project. I told him that I had spoken at the Council meeting on Tuesday 27th March 2012 in favour of the project proceeding. I also told him that I was disgusted at the treatment of the General Manager, John Neish at that meeting, in particular by the Councillors objecting to the proposed development. I said to him that it appeared that most of the meeting was spent by John Neish defending himself and justifying every action that he has taken.

It was at this point that he said to me that the real reason that he wanted to see me was that he had been asked to speak to me as to whether I was prepared to "broker a deal" between the 6 Councillors saying Yes to the proposed development and those 6 saying NO.

I was a little taken aback as to why I would be asked to do such a thing. He indicated that I would have the ability with both sides to do this. Somewhere during the discussion he mentioned that he had received a call from "Macquarie Street" asking him to do this.

My response was that I was honoured that people out there thought I had that sought of influence. I then said to him that it really depended on the "deal". What if I didn't agree with the proposed deal?

He said that he would let me know what the deal was, and that he wanted me to present this "deal" in the first instance to the General Manager, John Neish. He wanted me to convince John to make it happen. He also implied that this deal would ensure that John's position as General Manager was secure, particularly after the next Council election. I was unsure how he could do this.

Later that day John called me to let me know what the deal was. In summary it was as follows:

- A committee or review board would be formed.
- John Neish was to prepare the terms of reference for this committee.
- It was to be made of 4 Councillors, two of which were to be Roy Maggio and Sarkis Yedelian plus two others but not Ivan Petch

- It was to also have on the committee the Manager of Planning, Domenic Johnson and the Community Manager (Danielle??)
- It was also to have 4 members of the public from the groups opposing the Civic redevelopment.
- The findings of the committee would be delivered after the council elections in September
- The findings would be accepted by the incoming Council
- The decision will be for the development to go ahead
- There is to be a strong push to expedite all DA applications in Council
- That I (Tony Abboud) would slow down on my attacks on Ivan Petch
- That John Goubran would deliver 'preferences' either way. Deal on Preferences. "phone call from Macquarie Street"

He indicated that this deal was a "way out for the Lib's" and a "face saving for both camps" and that it would ensure John Neish's job and that the development would go ahead but only after the Local Council elections in September.

I suggested to him that I thought that the committee looked like to me that it was stacked in favour of the NO camp. He then said that John Neish can choose who he wants on the committee.

It was obvious to me at this stage that John Goubran was speaking on behalf of and representing Ivan Petch, Jeff Salvestro Martin and Justin Li. He implied that Terry Perram and Vic Tagg were not party to this deal.

I then called John Neish and asked if I could meet with him. Because of Easter later that week we agreed to meet after Easter on Friday 13th April. Later that week I let John Goubran know that I was meeting with John Neish after Easter to discuss the proposal.

On Friday morning 13th April, John Goubran called me to confirm that I was meeting with John Neish that later that morning. He also wanted to modify parts of the deal. He said that they now wanted the other two councillors on the committee to be Jeff Selvestro Martin and Ivan Petch. I said to him that he originally told me that Ivan Petch didn't want to be on the committee. John said that Ivan had changed his mind and now wanted to be on the committee. The other change was that they wanted the 4 members of the public on the committee to be me (Tony Abboud), Richard Green, George Papallo and Phillip Peak. He also said to me that Artin and the Liberals were in favour of the deal. I expressed my surprise at this comment because I found it hard to believe. If this was true then it would have been a total turn around from what had happened to date in Council.

I then met with John Neish at 11am that morning and disclosed the 'deal' and the whole scenario as to how I was approached.

John's response was firstly one of amusement. He wasn't sure what they meant about him setting the 'terms of reference' for this proposed committee. He also indicated to me that he was simply acting on a Council Resolution that required him to do the job he was doing regarding the Civic redevelopment and that the current resolution required him to complete this task by August this year.

John indicated that if Council wanted to pass a new resolution with respect the Civic redevelopment then he would be obliged to act on that new resolution as part of his role as General Manager. He also

commented that their requirement as part of this deal, that DA's currently in Council be expedited, is already happening as a result of improvements implemented in Council processes.

John was concerned by the comments made to me about his position in Council and the future of his job.

I left the meeting on the understanding that if this 'deal' was to proceed, it was a matter for the 12 councillors, in the form of a new Council resolution rather than anything that John Neish could do.

The following week, John Goubran called me to ask what happened at the meeting with John Neish.

I basically passed on John Neish's comments that if the Councillors wanted to change his instructions then it would have to be done in the form of a Council Resolution.

Tony Abboud

6th July 2012.

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Tony Abboud

From:

Reception

Sent:

Friday, 30 March 2012 12:19 PM

To:

Tony Abboud

Subject:

John Goubran 0412682682 (ML)

He said you knew what is was regarding

Regards,

Snowden Parkes Real Estate Agents 14 Church Street RYDE NSW 2112

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