

## Is the Hilton Head/ Bluffton Chamber *Abusing* our Local Economy?

### Consider some facts:

At the national level, controversy boils over about things like: (1) excessive government spending; (2) outsourcing jobs to foreign countries that could be done locally; and (3) lack of transparency at the highest levels of publicly-funded organizations that warrant oversight. All have inspired headline news for many years—and millions of Americans are continuously outraged.

*Yet, right here at home, right under our noses, every indication is that our own Chamber of Commerce is piling up abuses to the detriment of our community in many of the same ways.*

### Think about the following:

1. Using public funds and its non-profit status, The Hilton Head Island/ Bluffton Chamber competes directly with local media firms (including many of its own members) for advertising dollars—and then arm-twists members to pay for services that should be part of their membership.
2. The Hilton Head Island/ Bluffton Chamber outsources major, six-figure, contracts to various firms located in New York, Arkansas, Canada and elsewhere to the detriment of fully qualified local firms whose employees would be spending their take-home dollars right here in local shops, restaurants and salons, thereby contributing directly to the good of our overall local economy ~ not someone else's economy.

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*Think about the above when you soon see the Chamber's hypocritical "Shop Local" holiday ad campaign!*

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3. The Hilton Head Island/ Bluffton Chamber, with its bloated payroll, refuses to open its books to its own members who have made repeated requests. One continues to wonder what they are trying to hide?

How long will our community sit by and watch these abuses continue? *I for one will not stop until every rock is turned over, and every abuse brought to light.* If you are beginning to wonder as well about what is going on with the public monies our Town Council has been lavishly handing over to the Chamber, I hope you will contact your town council representative and/or join with my effort. Send me an email at [SpeakUp@StopChamberAbuse.com](mailto:SpeakUp@StopChamberAbuse.com) and let me know what suggestions you might have to help stop this abuse.

Thank you for your support,

*Skip Hoagland*

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