

Todd Gloria's Reputation Takes Another Hit

by DOUG PORTER on APRIL 16, 2013



President Todd?

The [Voice of San Diego](#) is up with an eyebrow raising report this morning penned by Andrew Keatts about City Councilman Todd Gloria's role in rejecting construction plans by a North Park religious school.

In December 2012, a jury trial ended with a \$500,000 award to the Academy of Our Lady of Peace based on evidence the City of San Diego improperly rejected its expansion project. The VOSD account strongly suggests that Gloria improperly pressured city staff into changing a vital report that cleared the way for the City Council to reject the school's plans.

The story cites testimony by a city planner saying that, subsequent to Gloria's intervention with his boss, this was the only time he could recall in his 10 years with the city

he'd been asked to change a conclusion. Money [quote](#):

Staff reports provide the council informational background on any item. The council sometimes votes against the city staff's official recommendation, but in land use cases like this, council members legally must base their vote on a specific fact provided in the item's supporting materials. They can't arbitrarily rule for or against something.

Between the council meetings, two key things happened: Gloria met with a staffer charged with collecting city reports on the project, and that same staffer instructed a colleague to change a report's conclusion to better align with Gloria's preference, according to court documents.

That wasn't simply a coincidence, claimed the school's attorneys. They say Gloria told city staff to change the determination, and then used the change to justify denying the project. "Only after the planner changed the report did Todd have an in to deny the project," said Dan Dalton, lead lawyer for Our Lady of Peace. "The jury saw that, and it all looked pretty disgusting."

Gloria denies any improper behavior in connection with the incident. But given his toadying for the tourism industrial complex lately, this story seems to ring true. Read the [whole story](#). Good stuff.

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