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## **Unconventional Austin SPAC Files It's First Contributions & Expenditures Report Today, UA's Financial Report Puts To Rest the Rumors Being Spread By Opposition**

(AUSTIN, TEXAS) — July 15, 2019. Today, Unconventional Austin filed its initial campaign finance report to the City disclosing its contributions and expenditures made in support of its petition drive.

The Unconventional Austin SPAC campaign finance report shows that there is no outside “dark money” supporting our petition. All of our money comes from Austin residents, voters, and two organizations that have helped preserve what makes Austin exciting to visitors and residents alike. The largest individual supporters of the Unconventional Austin petition drive are whistleblower, real estate investor, and current Tourism Commission member Brian Rodgers; and Save Our Springs Alliance attorney and Executive Director Bill Bunch. Bunch also serves on the Tourism Commission with Mr. Rodgers.

The largest contributions to the Unconventional Austin SPAC came from designated legislative lobbying funds of Save Our Springs Alliance. Although not required by law, SOS Alliance is also filing a report with the City Clerk identifying the individual SOS supporters, including Mr. Rodgers, who contributed specifically in support of the petition drive to require a public vote on any major expansion of the convention center and to prioritize the investment of our hotel tax tourism dollars in cultural, heritage and environmental tourism.

Unconventional Austin also received a major contribution from the Foundation for Constitutional Protection, Inc, a non-profit dedicated to educating and preserving citizens' constitutional rights. The contribution was part of a pledge from Michael Kleinman, owner of Austin-based Planet K, co-founder of Austin Independent Business Alliance, and board member of South Austin Popular Culture Center. All other contributions are included on the full campaign finance report which will be posted to the city's website and is available upon request.

“Now that we have filed our financial report, we look forward to a vigorous civic debate on the merits of how we should be spending our hotel tourism tax dollars and whether Austin voters should have a say in how those dollars are spent over the next 30 years,” said Bill Bunch, supporter of Unconventional Austin. “It is clear to me that if the opposition to our petition is willing to mislead people about our donors and the intent of our petition, it should come as no surprise to anyone that they are also misleading the public about other aspects of this issue, including the law, what hotel taxes can be used for, funding for arts and music, and the absence of any business case for the proposed expansion.”

In the coming weeks, Unconventional Austin will be reporting on these important elements of the citywide conversation.

“The legal advice and talking points, which I have heard over and over again in city meetings, come from the multinational corporate hotel lobby, an interest group which, according to the City's own study (the UT report), will capture most of the benefit from a publicly-funded convention center while what actually drives tourism, what visitors and residents love, will continue to be neglected,” said John Riedie, Tourism Commissioner, District 7. “It's absurd. We don't need a staggeringly expensive expansion of the convention center to create funding for homelessness, or to grow live music tourism. We can do those things now, but only if we stand up to the hotel lobby”

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