



Leading Business.  
Leading Springdale.

October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Ms. Anita Davis  
Davis Law Firm  
120 N. Commercial  
Springdale, AR 72764

Re: Response to September 11, 2009 letter from Ervin and Company, CPA and accompanying ledger

Dear Ms. Davis;

I am writing in response to the letter dated September 11, 2009, prepared by Ervin and Company, Certified Public Accountants, P.A. and the accompanying ledger prepared by you and your staff, which was delivered to me, Mayor Sprouse's office and a selected member of the media on September 14, 2009.

The Board of Directors of the Springdale Chamber of Commerce has researched and investigated the ledger that was prepared and delivered to Ervin and Company for their review, as well as the letter prepared by Erwin and Company based on the information they received. I am both pleased and proud to report that our investigation revealed no misconduct, improper accounting practices, or wrongdoing on the part of the Chamber or its staff. Nothing was discovered in this document that was not already understood and approved by its Board of Directors.

The greatest misunderstanding in this unfortunate event was the clear omission of the revenue side of the chambers financials, also provided to you, which directly tie to and offset the majority of the identified expenses. This omission clearly left the ledger incomplete and the information from which Ervin and Company used for their opinion to be selected and flawed. The Chamber recognizes this fact and continues to hold Ervin and Company in the highest regard. In fact it was Ervin and Company, while serving as the Chamber's auditor, which originally developed the majority of the accounting practices utilized by the Chamber today.

We do hope you understand, that while the stated intent of your actions was to “send Perry Webb packing” your accusations challenged the personal integrity of the hard working men and women of Springdale’s business community who comprise the Chambers Board of Directors. While they volunteer their time, they take their responsibility seriously and with earnest. They further bear the responsibility for the staff and their actions by personally reviewing, approving, and in many instances funding their actions. It is the business community that makes a chamber, not an individual. Your lack of understanding that has greatly offended many of us that do not charge the city to promote Springdale’s economic development.

Finally, in hindsight, we are actually glad that we had this as an opportunity to review our staff, our accounting practices, and our approval procedures. I am now, more than ever, convinced that we are doing things correctly and transparently. I am further convinced of the incredible value provided by the Chamber Staff and our hundreds of volunteers who comprise the network between citizens, business, and government; the only successful formula for long-term economic and community development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Hanby', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Blake Hanby, 2009 Chairperson  
Springdale Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Mayor Doug Sprouse  
Springdale Chamber Board of Directors