

The Fayettevillage Voice

Occasional musings on things Round About Town and a column of comment As I See It.

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Revenues Down Across the Board



Sales tax receipts from January are in, and the news is not good for cities in Northwest Arkansas, which means bad news for local retail sales as well. Fayetteville revenue was down 2.9% from January 2008, and that was the smallest hit in the region.

Rogers sales tax receipts were off by 7.6%, Springdale down by 12.4%, and Bentonville tanked by 17.4%. Some say the late January ice storm is to blame, but the sales suck doesn't really track with the degree of storm damage in these cities.

What we know is that the Streamlined Sale Tax law is not the culprit that Springdale had claimed it was. It appears that the model tax law only accounted for about 2% of the decline. We don't know for sure, because the Springdale Chamber refuses to release a copy of the study, would not authorize Jeff Collins to talk about what he found, and took back the copy they let Mayor Sprouce see for a brief period of time.

The Springdale Chamber has much to hide. They have taken hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars, but they have produced nothing, unless you can spin having presided over a huge loss of jobs and declining revenues as an accomplishment. No reporter or public official in Springdale will push the issue, but a private group that takes that much public money should be covered by the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.