



faith, hope, love

SOCIETY of ST. VINCENT de PAUL 420 W. Watkins St. Phoenix, Arizona 85003 tel 602.261.6801 fax 602.261.6829 szabilksi@svdp-az.org



Arizona Corporation Commission  
Stephen J. Zabitski  
Executive Director

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM

ORIGINAL

DEC 15 2008

December 11, 2008

DOCKETED BY [Signature]

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The Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Commissioner Jeff Hatch-Miller:

For the past twelve years I have been the executive director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix, Arizona. During this time I have worked closely with the employees and management of Arizona Public Services as they have assisted our organization in numerous ways. For years APS employees have volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul reaching out and serving those less fortunate, including the homeless and the working poor.

APS has also been a significant financial supporter of St. Vincent de Paul for the past twenty years, and we rely upon their generosity to enable us to purchase food and other items that we use in our daily ministries. Most recently, this past October APS awarded St. Vincent de Paul a grant of \$35,000 to purchase food for our dining rooms and Reclamation Center.

One of our 3,500 Vincentian volunteers recently indicated to this Commission that St. Vincent de Paul does not get any money from APS. This is simply incorrect as I have noted above.

It was also stated by our Vincentian that APS people would have their eyes opened if they volunteered at a food bank. I would again like to note that APS employees do volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul. In fact, our spring 2004 Vincentian newsletter features a picture of APS Chairman Bill Post volunteering in our family dining room in South Phoenix. Other issues of our newsletter have also included a picture of APS Executive Marty Shultz and have highlighted APS as one of our key corporate supporters.

What makes me most proud of APS is the fact that they were a driving force behind the building of the Human Services Campus in downtown Phoenix. Without the leadership of individuals like Bill Post and Marty Shultz, the Human Services Campus simply would not exist. In fact, for years St. Vincent de Paul and other non-profits had been collaborating to build such a facility. It was only when the business community, led by Bill and Marty, embraced this project that it actually came to fruition.

If you have not had the opportunity to visit the Human Services Campus, I can assure you that it is one of the finest facilities in the country. In fact, leaders from throughout the country have come to visit the campus to learn firsthand how their communities could undertake such an effort. Philip Mangano, Director of the Inter-Agency Council of Homelessness in Washington, D.C., has visited the campus on a number of occasions, and called it a model project for our country.

Additionally, two years ago, the Campus received one of the highest honors from the Association of County Governments in Washington, D.C. Simply put, this Campus would not exist without the financial support, and more importantly, the leadership efforts of APS.

I recognize that these are challenging economic times and certainly neither I, St. Vincent de Paul, nor the people we serve look forward to higher utility rates. At the same time, as a business school graduate and a former certified public accountant, I recognize how critical it is that any company, and in particular a utility, maintains a strong financial rating. Without such rating, APS will be further challenged to meet the needs of its customers and runs the risk of even higher utility rates if it's financing costs were to increase.

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I would be happy to share any additional information with you regarding St. Vincent de Paul and how APS has assisted us over the years. Please do not hesitate to contact me on my direct line, 602-261-6801.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Zabilski", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen J. Zabilski  
Executive Director

SJZ:rcj  
azcorpcom12-08

cc: Joseph J. Riley, President  
SVdP Board of Directors