

LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE

We oppose the spending of over \$1.1 BILLION of taxpayer money on the venues proposed by Orlando City Council, Mayors Buddy Dyer and Rich Crotty, and tycoon Rich DeVos. Local officials and business leaders continue to ignore basic problems that face our growing community, such as a lack of economic diversification, increasing crime and homicide rates, struggling educational quality, hostile law enforcement practices, and spikes in homelessness and poverty, in favor of subsidizing those already well off. It would only cost Rich DeVos a fraction of his enormous \$3.4 BILLION personal fortune to finance the building of these three pyramids.

Our local government should not be in the business of financing venture capitalism or giving handouts to the wealthy elite. It is wrong to socialize the costs and risks of entrepreneurship so the affluent reap the benefits and private owners pocket the profits.

If the venues are approved, the City of Orlando and Orange County will be presenting millionaires and billionaires with a gift that keeps on giving as they cater to high level executives and their families with free tickets, skyboxes and open bars, while ordinary citizens will still be paying \$60 for the “cheap seats” and \$7 a beer.

Instead of handing welfare checks to the rich, the City of Orlando and Orange County should be focusing on providing and enhancing badly-needed public services. If Mayors Dyer and Crotty were sincere in their efforts to improve the local quality of life, the alternatives are plentiful:

- End the City of Orlando’s attacks on the homeless and subsidize affordable housing, not billionaires.
- Invest in public transportation: enhance the bus system and build commuter rail.
- Fund sustainable energy and open space acquisition. Improve our local environmental quality, conserve our natural resources, and create “green” employment opportunities rather than the dead-end low-paying service jobs the venues “offer” residents of Parramore and adjoining neighborhoods.
- A City/County partnership to buy the Orlando Magic and build the arts center from the revenue the team would generate. The current value of the Magic is \$237 MILLION, which is only a fraction of what we’d be spending on the venues. If the residents of Orlando held ownership of the team, it could be a cash cow that would fund services to address real social needs that have been put on the back burner by the City and the County.

WE DEMAND ORANGE COUNTY HOLD A REFERENDUM ON FINANCING THE
THREE VENUES

Central Florida Movement for a Democratic Society (MDS)