

8:43

5G 75%



Bruce Barron

Active now



SEP 01, 2021 AT 9:27 AM

Good morning Bruce, Next week the council may create a tourism commission that will govern the money collected from the hotel/ motel tax. If they do, I need to appoint a representative from that industry to the commission and I'd like to appoint you. I think your business is the future of tourism in Superior and you've been one of the most articulate ambassadors for the region I've heard in a while. I don't know the full meeting schedule but it's likely to be at least monthly through the fall as they build a budget and then probably back off to quarterly next year. Are you interested?



Yes. I support you and if you need me i am honored to be a part.

Great! I'll need a phone number and an address where you can receive mail. Local is best if you have one but I'll take your twin cities address if that's all you got



6122207514



Come to think of it, whatever



Aa



8:43

5G 76%



Bruce Barron

Active now



Come to think of it, whatever address you get mail fastest is best. I'll also need an email. That's our primary communication

2101 emerson ave n. Minneapolis mn 55411

Best to send communication as an attachment to email

Barronbruce@outlook.com

2129 john is the local address



But mail takes forever there

SEP 01, 2021 AT 9:51 AM



Will they meet in person or Zoom it?

An in person quorum is required, but if a majority of members attend in person, one or two people can zoom in and fully participate, including voting



SEP 04, 2021 AT 9:29 AM

I see they are trying to mislead people. The hotel motel tax absolutely goes to the Chamber.



Aa



8:44

5G 76%

**Bruce Barron**

Active now



SEP 04, 2021 AT 9:29 AM

I see they are trying to mislead people on FB. The hotel motel tax absolutely goes to the Chamber. The Chamber has an organization called Travel Superior that spends the funds but it is absolutely part of the Chamber.

...ities under our roof are committed to the success of our business community, tourism sector, staff and community as a whole through engagement on topics of equity, diversity, accessibility and inclusion. We are committed to creating an inclusive business community for all and promote a welcoming and enjoyable experience for all of our visitors.

The Superior-Douglas County Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit made up of 3 separate entities focusing on business, education, and tourism - The Chamber, The Chamber Foundation, and Superior Douglas County Visitor Bureau dba. Travel Superior. An elected board of directors oversees the overall organization as we aim to advance the general welfare and prosperity of the Superior-Douglas County region.

The Chamber works daily to advocate and advance business interest and community growth through Superior and Douglas County. We provide our over 400 members opportunities for networking, continued

"This clearly says on their website that the "overall organization" which contains Travel Superior is "The Superior-Douglas County Area Chamber of Commerce"

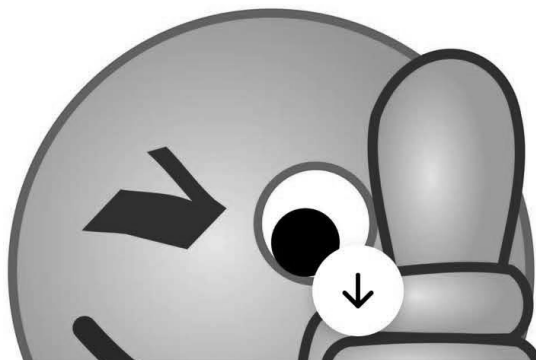
...11th and 12th grade students from Douglas County school districts. Through educational programming, unique experiences, and encouraging volunteer opportunities, this program has enhanced the education of over 500 students beginning in 2003.

Travel Superior, the Superior Douglas County Visitor Bureau works to promote and market the Superior and Douglas County region as a premier travel destination. Travel Superior operates an official Travel Wisconsin Welcome Center as well as uses mediums such as digital, social media, and print advertising to encourage visitors to our beautiful corner of Northwest Wisconsin.

Click [here](#) to find out how your business or



SEP 04, 2021 AT 9:45 AM



Aa



8:44

5G 76%



Bruce Barron

Active now



SEP 04, 2021 AT 9:45 AM



Where do i find financial statements from the chamber to see how much \$\$ comes in and how the \$\$ is spent?



Travel Superior submits financials to the finance committee and those can be found in their minutes. I could send them in a few days or you could just scroll through those on the website. But they keep a separate set of financials for the chamber side. However, you'll see from the TS financials that the money gets pretty mixed because it's all one organization

Thats what we need to see. \$ in. \$ out. And what gets mixed in the grinder



Aa



8:44

5G 76%



Bruce Barron

Active now



Thats what we need to see. \$ in. \$ out. And what gets mixed in the grinder

I can send the most recent ones later today



Thanks.



Superior would be better served (as example) with lighted volleyball courts at Barkers. Get music going. Host tournaments. Bring people in. We pay \$10 grand in tax (plus real estate taxes of 10k) and to think 7k goes to the Cof C black hole? Think amenities.



Could have the Superior Cup. Tournament with different divisions. Different age groups. That would bring people in. Or is a billboard on 35 - travel superior a better idea? No comparison

I totally agree. That's the point of the commission. It's the opportunity to have more options and to have better representation from the actual people that pay the tax



Aa



8:45

5G 77%



Bruce Barron

Active now



I totally agree. That's the point of the commission. It's the opportunity to have more options and to have better representation from the actual people that pay the tax

I honestly have no clue as to what the tourism outfit actually does. But if we pay ten gees in tax (little us) then there must be a decent total dollar figure.

Yea they get several hundred thousand dollars. Here's a link to their report to the finance committee. It isn't the whole profit and loss sheet but it's got a lot of the expenditures



https://www.ci.superior.wi.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_05132021-90

www.ci.superior.wi.us

Thanks. Several hundred thousand dollars. And what do they claim has come from it all? There is sooo much Superior can do to create amenities and accommodations. What a waste of tax dollars.



Aa



8:45

5G 77%



Bruce Barron

Active now



Thanks. Several hundred thousand dollars. And what do they claim has come from it all? There is sooo much Superior can do to create amenities and activities. What a waste of tax dollars.



SEP 07, 2021 AT 7:10 PM



**Superior Chamber
of Commerce**

Facebook



SEP 08, 2021



12:20 AM



Aa



8:45

5G 77%



Bruce Barron

Active now



SEP 08, 2021 AT 12:20 AM

Yea I don't even know what to say about this

SEP 08, 2021 AT 7:26 AM



Meet Minneapolis



World-class museums, festivals, and top-notch restaurants - you'll need more than a day to experie...

Facebook

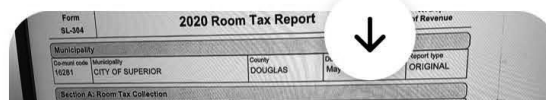


This actually makes me want to come down. It's so simple yet effective

Meet Minneapolis is a group that knows what they are doing. Despite the crazy political environment and the crime and gunfire.



SEP 08, 2021 AT 10:42 AM



Aa



8:45

5G 78%

**Bruce Barron**

Active now



SEP 08, 2021 AT 10:42 AM

2020 Room Tax Report

Form SL-004 of Revenue

Municipality: 16281 CITY OF SUPERIOR County: DOUGLAS Due date: May 3, 2021 Report type: ORIGINAL

Section A: Room Tax Collection

1. Room tax collected in 2020	\$663,833
2. Room tax rate imposed as of December 31, 2020	7.50 %
3. Did your municipality change your room tax rate during 2020?	NO
4. If you answer, provide your municipality's prior room tax rate	%

Section B: Room Tax Revenue Distributions

1. During 2020, did your municipality forward room tax revenues to a tourism entity or commission for tourism development? Yes

2. List each tourism entity and commission that received room tax revenues from your municipality

Tourism Entity or Commission	Revenues Distributed to Entity or Commission
1. Superior Douglas County Area Chamber of Commerce	\$464,473

Section C: Tourism Entity/Commission Members

For each tourism entity and commission reported in Section B, you must provide member information including any related business entities.

For a tourism commission - list each member

For a tourism entity - list each member of its governing body

Related business entity - includes a business the member owns, operates or is employed by. Select "None" to indicate the member has no related business entity.

1. Superior Douglas County Area Chamber of Commerce



\$464,473 in 2020 alone! To chamber. Takes your breath away. What did Superior get in return?

I may ask you to formally support the creation of a commission. I believe the city's largest hotel operator is going to formally support as well



SEP 08, 2021 AT 1:34 PM

I have spreadsheeted the 2017-2020 cash flows presented in the document you sent. Lots of questions. Lots. I can email it to you and we can discuss. Your email address is.....

SEP 08, 2021 AT 1:52 PM



hofSuperior@gmail.com



Aa



8:46

5G 78%



Bruce Barron

Active now



A lotta questions. I am sure there are good answers. But not a lot of good answers. Where does the unspent money go?

That's not clear to me. A reserve
im sure



well if it goes to a reserve then it should be credited to a reserve account. And should be displayed as such. With a credit balance growing



a lotta money going out. and no one questioned this before?

A bunch of us have been questioning it for years. But they freak out anytime you ask questions

They refuse to answer in public and demand private meetings

Then they usually tell you to stop asking questions



well then first hold private meetings. But on the record.

I swear they didn't even have these before 2008. It was a mess



Aa



8:46

5G 78%



Bruce Barron

Active now



well then first hold private meetings.
But on the record.

I swear they didn't even have these
before 2017. It was a mess

They have over two million in tax
dollars! Tax dollars!

and no public audit?

\$650K in wages -for whom? staff?

and the Bong thing - ? half a mill?
who sold the tax payers on that?

And a mysterious Tourism fund?
that is who and had done what?

disclosure and transparency. wanna
see a tax payer lawsuit?



anyway

The Bong and the TDF are built into
the contract because they got
those funds before. But I think that
makes the contract illegal. They
could both be funded but they
should make the pitch to the
commission rather than just get a
dedicated percentage of the funds
without oversight.



Aa



8:47

5G 79%



Bruce Barron

Active now



The Bong and the TDF are built into the contract because they got those funds before. But I think that makes the contract illegal. They could both be funded but they should make the pitch to the commission rather than just get a dedicated percentage of the funds without oversight.

And ya. Im telling you. They are fighting hard to keep any oversight away

what is their tax exempt or Tax ID number? their filings should be available publicly

Oversight comes with public funding

Oh I'm not sure. I could try and find it

But remember the law was written to insulate them from public oversight. That's why I'm trying to change it

That law would not stand up to a tax payer FOIA request



Aa



8:47

5G 79%



Bruce Barron

Active now



But remember the law was written to insulate them from public oversight. That's why I'm trying to change it



That law would not stand up to a tax payer FOIA request

I agree. I think they would fight it but I think we'd win

The state public records law is much stronger than FOIA



the city attorney should be on that asap

I spoke with a former employee or something from the Chamber. She was pretty clear that she knew there was shady stuff happening there.



I like a good fight. and if city ordinance is in conflict with state law..... city loses every time

For sure. I think we are going to be back at it on Tuesday.



I am going to become a chamber member



Aa



8:47

5G 80%



Bruce Barron

Active now



I am going to become a chamber member!

I thought you already were. I thought I saw your ad in the visitors guide



nope

SEP 09, 2021 AT 12:01 PM



Am now a chamber member.
\$500 wasted.

Congratulations I guess



I held my nose when i hit submit.

I am told the chamber has two or more tax IDs for subsidiaries. Hence there will be three or more IRS form 990s to research if I can get the tax ID numbers. (Or I need the exact name of each entity as it is filed



I think \$\$\$ are likely washed thru that chamber

SEP 09, 2021 AT 12:45 PM



I think so too

SEP 10, 2021 AT 10:26 AM



Aa



8:47

5G 80%



Bruce Barron

Active now



SEP 10, 2021 AT 10:36 AM

Could you send me a letter of support in email asking the council to create the tourism commission?



SEP 10, 2021 AT 1:44 PM



Just sent. Check if its what you are looking for

Perfect. Looks great

Good. I tried to pull out accusatory language.



But the more i look at this thing the more i see a toilet flushing

SEP 21, 2021 AT 1:47 PM

I just emailed you the login for tonight's meeting

There are a few councilors bitter about creating the commission and they may take that out on you. They will argue that you don't live here and you don't actually operate a "hotel". I'll refute both but I may give you a few minutes to introduce yourself. Just speak about why you



Aa



8:48

5G 80%



Bruce Barron

Active now



I just emailed you the login for tonight's meeting

There are a few councilors bitter about creating the commission and they may take that out on you. They will argue that you don't live here and you don't actually operate a "hotel". I'll refute both but I may give you a few minutes to introduce yourself. Just speak about why you chose to open your business here and the vision you have for superior. Also the work you've already done to promote the place.

You'll have about 3 minute



Ok. I will get prepared

If you have to, invoke Brian Finstad.
We all love Finstad

Lol



Oh great. Well he did invite me to superior



What email did u send to ?



I dont see it yet



Aa



8:49

5G 81%



Bruce Barron

Active now



Lol



Oh great. Well he did invite me to superior



What email did u send to ?



I dont see it yet

SEP 21, 2021 AT 2:20 PM



Got it

SEP 21, 2021 AT 10:02 PM

Congratulations! You did great.
Time to get to work now

SEP 21, 2021 AT 10:39 PM



Now i have a better idea. One thing I want to do is reach out to every hotel in town, meet the owners. And hear their views.

SEP 23, 2021 AT 11:07 AM



Meet Minneapolis



Aa



8:49

5G 81%



Bruce Barron

Active now



SEP 23, 2021 AT 11:07 AM



Meet Minneapolis

The leaves are changing -- and so is our events calendar. See what's happening this Fall in Minneapoli...

Facebook



I can't wait to check these out



See the colorful leaves. Duck from the gunfire



SEP 29, 2021 AT 9:27 AM

Coming to city hall tomorrow to drop of my oath



SEP 29, 2021 AT 10:05 AM

Awesome what time? You should stop up



I think 11 pr 1130



Aa



8:49

5G 81%



Bruce Barron

Active now



SEP 29, 2021 AT 10:05 AM

Awesome what time? You should stop up



I think 11 pr 1130

I'll be here

Actually I won't be back until 12:30. No worries



So i can do 1230 or 2. 2 might be best

I'm waiting on an appointment in the afternoon but we can tentatively say 2



OCT 05, 2021 AT 8:34 AM



Hey. A little confusion here Can you give me a quick call at 612-220-7514?

OCT 05, 2021 AT 9:15 AM

Yep. Sorry I got your email just haven't had a minute to respond. I'll call today. Short answer is that your original understanding was correct



Aa



8:50

5G 81%



Bruce Barron

Active now



OCT 05, 2021 AT 9:15 AM

Yep. Sorry I got your email just haven't had a minute to respond. I'll call today but short answer is that your original understanding was correct.



Good. Thanks

OCT 08, 2021 AT 5:09 PM



Very interesting

OCT 18, 2021 AT 3:46 AM



The Historic Lutsen Lo...



Escape to Lutsen Resort on Lake Superior and take in a show from mother nature with our "Wave S...

Facebook



NOV 05, 2021 AT 6:09 PM



Jim. When is a good time to



Aa



8:50

5G 81%



Bruce Barron

Active now



NOV 05, 2021 AT 6:09 PM



Jim. When is a good time to "not meet"?

NOV 06, 2021 AT 10:24 AM

Probably can't this weekend but free next weekend. Including Thursday and Friday I think



That will work.

NOV 10, 2021 AT 8:21 PM



Lets do Friday. Not sure what time i get into superior Thursday

NOV 12, 2021 AT 7:46 AM

I've got some press stuff until about 2. Do you want to meet at 2:15? Any particular place?

NOV 12, 2021 AT 8:42 AM



Open to ideas. Where should we not meet?

NOV 12, 2021 AT 9:24 AM

↓
In the... lic. How about just the Mayors office?



Aa



8:50

5G 81%



Bruce Barron

Active now



NOV 12, 2021 AT 8:42 AM



Open to ideas. Where should we not meet?

NOV 12, 2021 AT 9:24 AM

In public. How about just the Mayors office?



Sure. You have a coffee maker?

Oh! If you want coffee let's just go to Empire.



Lets do that. Haven't been there

NOV 17, 2021 AT 11:24 AM



Almost have all relevant data from travel superior days. Waiting on Ashley to produce the quarterly reports from 2018 and 2017. Then we will know the full story.

DEC 03, 2021 AT 1:46 PM



Lindsey thinks i should meet with the city attorney

DEC 03, 2021 AT 2:58 PM



Did she say why?



Aa



8:50

5G 82%



Bruce Barron

Active now



DEC 03, 2021 AT 2:58 PM

Did she say why?



Because of Taylors threats. And because my wfforts to understand the visitor center and its funding show a little funky stuff



Wants me to make sure i stay out of trouble!

DEC 03, 2021 AT 3:24 PM

Oh. That's wise then. Advice from the city attorney, as opposed to private counsel, protects you from most personal liability. I run just about everything by him, but I'm right next door



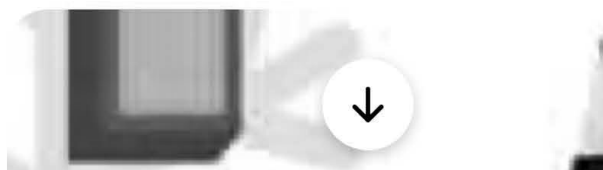
Well let him know i need his time!

Will do

DEC 03, 2021 AT 4:05 PM



DEC 30, 2021 AT 6:33 AM



Aa



8:50

5G 82%



Bruce Barron

Active now



DEC 03, 2021 AT 4:05 PM



DEC 30, 2021 AT 6:33 AM



Meet Minneapolis

Facebook

JAN 21, 2022 AT 3:21 PM



Michelle Hochstettler to replace Em.



FEB 11, 2022 AT 1:17 PM



Seems those comments about a



Aa



8:51

5G 82%



Bruce Barron

Active now



JAN 21, 2022 AT 3:21 PM



Michelle Hochstettler to replace Em.



FEB 11, 2022 AT 1:17 PM



Seems those comments about a commissioner causing problems was directed at me.

FEB 11, 2022 AT 3:28 PM

I checked, it actually wasn't. And the issue was such small potatoes I don't know why it upset people so much. I contributed Pattie about it after the meeting. That stuff doesn't serve the mission at all

FEB 11, 2022 AT 5:36 PM



Hard to believe i was not the target of patti and keith and lindsey. All been very unwelcoming

It's clear that Taylor has been aggressively pushing them to attack anyone he considers his enemies

FEB 11, 2022 AT 7:08 PM

Taylor better be careful. I did a pretty complete analysis of his



Aa



8:51

5G 82%



Bruce Barron

Active now



It's clear that Taylor has been aggressively pushing them to attack anyone he considers his enemies

FEB 11, 2022 AT 7:08 PM

Taylor better be careful. I did a pretty complete analysis of his reports. He should be afraid of an audit or a complaint filed with the city. County and state.

FEB 11, 2022 AT 7:44 PM

I've seen some nasty politics before but this is strangely personal and I don't know why

Its because i am an outsider. And i am not afraid of them. All they each need to do is the best and most honest thing for Superior

Seems theres been a history of bully tactics and such in your fair town

Do you ever wonder if the commission can legally operate without a member of the lodging industry?



FEB 11, 2022 AT 8:40 PM



Aa



8:51

5G 82%



Bruce Barron

Active now



FEB 11, 2022 AT 7:44 PM

I've seen some nasty politics before but this is strangely personal and I don't know why



Its because i am an outsider. And i am not afraid of them. All they each need to do is the best and most honest thing for Superior



Seems theres been a history of bully tactics and such in your fair town



Do you ever wonder if the commission can legally operate without a member of the lodging industry?

FEB 11, 2022 AT 8:10 PM

That's about right. But that's also why I'm fighting it so hard



Well whats patts agenda. Steer everything to taylor?



Its a new day in Superior? Or its kiss the ghost of Christmas past.

FEB 11, 2022 AT 9:54 PM



Aa



8:51

5G 82%



Bruce Barron

Active now



FEB 11, 2022 AT 9:54 PM

I honestly don't think she's pro chamber. But I'll talk to her and find out



She has her agenda.

If I were Taylor i would step back and stop pushing on your council people and patti. in his attacks on me. He has far more to lose than me.



Everyone should focus on whats best for superior going forward.



Thats what people should be on the commission for

I totally agree. He has nothing to gain from this.



It would reflect badly on the city and especially the finance committee as well. No one is stirring the pot but him

MAR 08, 2022 AT 6:14 PM

Could you send your number one more



Aa



8:51

5G 82%



Bruce Barron

Active now



commission for

I totally agree. He has nothing to gain from this.



It would reflect badly on the city and especially the finance committee as well. No one is stirring the pot but him

MAR 08, 2022 AT 6:14 PM

Could you send your number one more time?

MAR 08, 2022 AT 8:23 PM



612 220 7514.

MAR 10, 2022 AT 4:19 PM



You still owe me a call

MAR 10, 2022 AT 4:40 PM

Yep. One hour I think

MAR 15, 2022 AT 8:55 AM



Good morning. Say. Is your contact at department of revenue the commissioner? Will he take my call



MAR 15, 2022 AT 9:45 AM



Aa



8:52

5G 83%



Bruce Barron

Active now



MAR 15, 2022 AT 8:55 AM



Good morning. Say. Is your contact at department of revenue the commissioner? Will he take my call

MAR 15, 2022 AT 9:45 AM

No. I'm close with the Secretary (Wisconsin's version of a Commissioner) but his role is more political. My contact is the chief policy aide to the secretary. He's a friend and a former Mayor of Racine. But he's still a policy guy and was going to put me in touch with one of the staff. I'll touch base again



MAR 15, 2022 AT 1:07 PM



Wow. Desperate measures. I believe the commission recommended Swim for the agency. The City Council approves or disapproves. The commission does not enter into contracts

That's kind of an open question right now. But regardless, no law can compel a contract



Aa



8:52

5G 83%



Bruce Barron

Active now



MAR 15, 2022 AT 1:07 PM

Wow. Desperate measures. I believe the commission recommended Swim for the agency. The City Council approves or disapproves. The commission does not enter into contracts



That's kind of an open question right now. But regardless, no law can compel a contract

MAR 15, 2022 AT 1:26 PM

The chambers board must condone this crap



I think they encourage it

Time for an aggressive audit. Time to take off the gloves. Time to not turn the other cheek. Period .



This happens when you lay in bed with snakes



MAR 30, 2022 AT 9:22 AM

Think i will be attending the Paine for Mayor event Thursday



Excellent! I wasn't sure when you'd



Aa



8:52

5G 83%



Bruce Barron

Active now



APR 08, 2022 AT 5:07 AM



Am seriously conflicted after today.
I am not sure I will continue on this
Commission.

APR 08, 2022 AT 6:54 AM

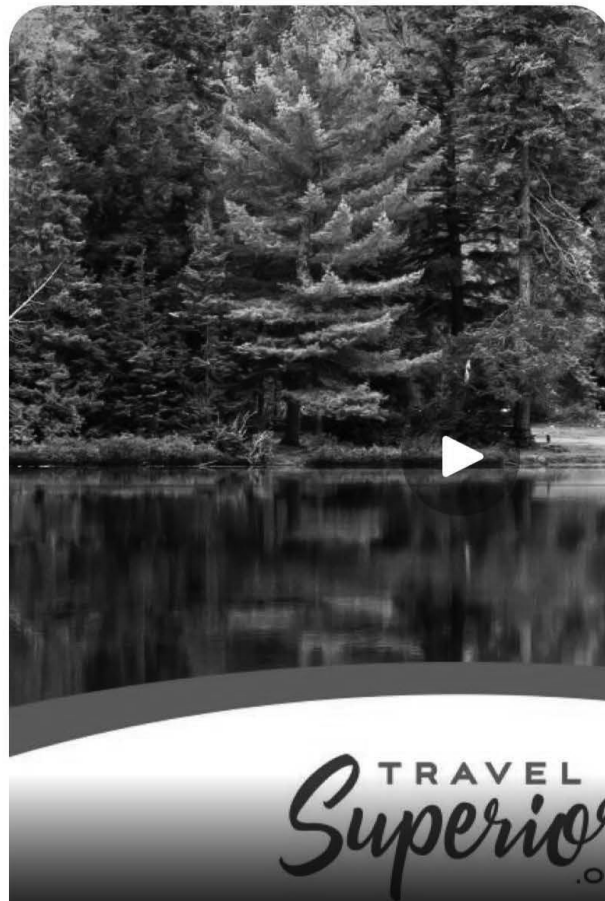
We can chat about it

APR 14, 2022 AT 4:20 PM



Yes. We should chat. Probably an
actual serious conversation

OCT 08, 2022 AT 6:35 AM



Aa

