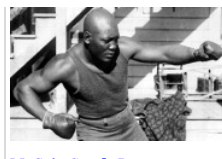




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## Sal DiCiccio's Loop 202 Problem: Phoenix Councilman Would Benefit from Reviled Ahwatukee Freeway Extension

By Sarah Fenske in [News](#)

Fri., Oct. 16 2009 @ 10:12AM



Social Eye Media

Councilman Sal DiCiccio isn't talking about his lease for 150 acres near the proposed Loop 202 extension. But we are.

Phoenix City Councilman Sal DiCiccio has promised to be a "forceful voice" in the ongoing controversy over the proposed extension of the Loop 202 freeway.

But DiCiccio should think twice about opening his mouth on this one. Records obtained by *New Times* show that DiCiccio appears to have a conflict of interest on the issue: His real estate development company currently has a lease on 150 tribal-owned acres in the area -- and those acres would clearly increase in value with improved freeway access, should the extension become reality.

Currently, the Loop 202 freeway stops at Pecos Road, in an area that borders Chandler, the Ahwatukee neighborhood of Phoenix, and the Gila River Indian Community.

ADOT hopes to extend the freeway west along Pecos Road, then head north to connect it to I-10. That route has generated intense neighborhood opposition, leading to talk of an alternative through the Gila River reservation.

But as long as the extension is completed, DiCiccio's business holdings would likely benefit -- regardless of which route is ultimately chosen.

On DiCiccio's own financial disclosure forms, which are filed with [the Phoenix city clerk](#) although not posted online, the councilman noted that his development company holds a lease on two 75-acre parcels on the Gila River Indian reservation.

One of the parcels is located at 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Pecos -- an area adjacent to where any freeway extension would have to begin. The other, which DiCiccio describes in his form only as being located off Highway 347, could also potentially see its value enhanced by the extension, although the details are less clear.

Arizona law bars public officials like DiCiccio from voting on or "participating in any manner" in transactions where they have a substantial interest.

The record clearly indicates that DiCiccio has been participating in the process, if not, per se, a "transaction." Whether he's violated the law is, at this point, only a question.

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But at a neighborhood meeting in June, the then newly-appointed councilman announced his presence

















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