

Silicon Valet



George Shirakawa Jr. bought whisky for his guests

George Shirakawa Jr.

Local Dining: \$352.20
Travel: \$4,766.00

• Shirakawa Jr. was paid for two consulting cases. McKesson paid him \$100,000 for a dollar's worth of shrimp, chops, and shotguns. Shirakawa Jr. didn't eat the shrimp, he never traveled, and he never spent any of the city's money. He received a relative

Herhold: Shirakawa: candidate of the old thing

Herhold
News

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"Can you spare some change?" might be the mantra for this year's election. Though change is a fuzzy concept, everyone has to think we need it.

one candidate for local office might have a tough time being invited to the party: George Shirakawa Jr., a former Santa Clara

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Land
Developers

Garbage
Companies

Night
Clubs



DO YOU WANT A SUPERVISOR IN THE POCKET OF SPECIAL INTERESTS?

IS GEORGE SHIRAKAWA THE NEXT RON GONZALES?

Lobbyist George Shirakawa wants to be your next District 2 Supervisor. After the City of San Jose's recent experience with Ron Gonzales and the Garbage scandal, do the voters of District 2 want a lobbyist for garbage companies, nightclubs, and wealthy land developers and real estate speculators representing them on the Board of Supervisors?

Mercury News writer Scott Herhold calls Shirakawa a "candidate of same old thing," who "reminds" him "of another politician, ex-San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales." (*Mercury News*, 2/3/2008) Herhold points out that Shirakawa takes tens of thousands of dollars from big developers in his school board races, including money from contractors who benefit from East Side Union High School bond measures Shirakawa has voted for. For example, the Seville Group, a Pasadena-based construction management firm has been paid more than \$13 million under a 2002 bond and contributed \$20,000 to Shirakawa's school board campaign in 2006. He also received \$5,000 from Bruce Flyn & Associates which received nearly \$2 million from Shirakawa's school district. Interestingly, these companies received **no-bid contracts**. Unfortunately, the taxpayers in the East Side district could soon be paying the highest tax rates for K-12 bonds in the county, thanks to Shirakawa's cozy dealings with the school district contractors (*Mercury News*, 1/29/2008).

The Metro reports that lobbyist Shirakawa used taxpayer money to wine and dine fellow school board members at conventions, running up travel and dining expenses in the thousands of dollars, while enjoying sumptuous dinners of jumbo shrimp, New York steaks, swordfish, mahi-mahi, lamb chops, and lemon linguine. He also made sure that the taxpayers picked up the tab for some Jack Daniels, scotch, and red wine along with the meal! (*The Metro*, 4/10/97).

As District 2 Supervisor who exactly will George Shirakawa represent? The voters or the same special interests who are corrupting Santa Clara County's political processes and brought us the Ron Gonzales scandal?

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George Shirakawa Jr. bought whisky for his guests.

George Shirakawa Jr.

Local Dining: \$352.36 (Ranking: 8th)
Travel: \$4,766.98 (Ranking: 6th)

• Shirakawa wine and dined his former colleagues for two \$200-plus meals while at a state school board convention in Long Beach in November 1995. In one case Shirakawa, formerly a member of the Franklin-McKinley school board, generously used taxpayer dollars to treat the Oak Grove school board to jumbo shrimp, New York steak, swordfish, mahi-mahi, lamb chops and lemon linguine. He also bought a couple of shots of Jack Daniel's, scotch and red wine for his dinner guests, though Shirakawa says he personally didn't drink any of it. (Shirakawa went so far as to say he never bills the city for his own bar tabs, although travel records from another trip indicate that he bought margaritas.) At the end of the five-day trip he had spent a total of \$643.12 on meals. (In contrast, the city's travel per diem for meals is \$34 a day unless receipts are provided.) "I feel it's justified because we get a lot of work done, we network, we establish good relations that carry throughout the year," Shirakawa