

# PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

## **Ethics complaint filed against former Budget and Management Director, Denver's new CFO**

An ethics complaint was filed by Jeff Peckman on March 29 against Ed Scholz, Denver's new Chief Financial Officer. The complaint will be reviewed on April 28. The twenty-nine page document is based on what is described as evidence of unethical, incompetent, and suspicious actions by Mr. Scholz in 2010 when he was Denver's Director of Budget and Management. The bizarre nature of the evidence submitted in the complaint reads like a script for an episode of X-Files.

The evidence includes a copy of email text from Scholz to a 'ghost hunter' who opposed Initiative 300 and allegedly taking mysterious calls and directions from an unknown source. The initiative was on the November 2010 ballot and proposed to create an Extraterrestrial Affairs Commission in Denver. The opponent asked Scholz about potential costs to the city from the activities of the commission if it was passed by the voters.

### **Key allegations and related evidence:**

1. Mr. Scholz' line item estimate totaling \$22,800 in potential costs to the city, that he said would have to be reimbursed by the ET Affairs Commission, was ten times greater than it should have been
  - a. Example - Scholz estimate of \$8,600 cost for television coverage of commission meetings: *"Television coverage was not requested in the ordinance, but if the language in the ordinance is modified these costs need to be identified."* – Ed Scholz [Note: The language of a proposed ballot initiative cannot be modified by anyone after it is voted into law.]
2. Jeff Peckman's corrections to Scholz' inaccurate line-item estimate were not acknowledged by Scholz, nor was the incorrect estimate retracted
3. Copies of communications between Scholz and the opponent of Initiative 300 were requested by Jeff Peckman, chief proponent of Initiative 300, but were not provided by Scholz office.
4. The Initiative 300 opponent and his assistant confronted Denver Auditor Dennis Gallagher in a cemetery with a trick question that wrongfully implied proponents of Initiative 300 were claiming that Gallagher endorsed it
5. The alleged \$100 million budget gap is a key issue in the mayoral election, and may not be accurate in light of questions about the ethics and competency of Mr. Scholz.

The full text of the ethics complaint can be viewed at:

[http://www.extracampaign.org/uploads/INQUIRY-COMPLAINT\\_FORM2010\\_Peckman.pdf](http://www.extracampaign.org/uploads/INQUIRY-COMPLAINT_FORM2010_Peckman.pdf)

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