



September 17, 2008

Quartzsite Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
395 North Central Blvd
Quartzsite, Arizona 85346

Dear Quartzsite Chamber of Commerce Representatives,

Today, the *Quartzsite Gem Newspaper* reported that I had been quoted as saying the Quartzsite Chamber of Commerce failed to meet the necessary requirements to retain their designation and grant.

Unfortunately, this information was erroneously reported. The information below (in italics) is what the newspaper reported. Following each quote (in bold) is my clarification of the issue, some of which I have previously stated to Mr. Bob Miller (no relation).

- 1) *"The chamber failed to meet the necessary requirements to retain their designation and grant."*

These are two distinct and separate issues. First, we provide funding to communities through our Teamwork for Effective Arizona Marketing (TEAM) program. To qualify for funds, an organization is required to attend a TEAM workshop to receive a Certificate of Attendance. Second, the Arizona Office of Tourism provides a separate Local Visitor Information Center (LVIC) designation program. Currently, this LVIC program does not have a grant component.

- 2) *"The Town of Quartzsite is now the official designated State of Arizona Tourism Bureau and the recipient of the funding grant."*

The Quartzsite Chamber of Commerce continues to be the officially designated LVIC for the Town of Quartzsite. However, the Town of Quartzsite is the recipient of a TEAM grant (as mentioned above) for fiscal year 2009 in the amount of \$3,393.

- 3) *"To be eligible to win state designation the Town had to send personnel to special schooling in Phoenix offered by the State Department of Tourism."*

For continued designation as a LVIC, visitor center staff must attend training once a year, provided free of charge by the Arizona Office of Tourism, at various locations throughout the state. The Quartzsite Chamber of Commerce attended the annual required workshop in fiscal year 2008, thus completing the requirement for this designation.

- 4) *"The chamber no longer is recognized by the state or the Town of Quartzsite as the official Tourism Bureau in La Paz County and no longer receives funding or recognition from the Town of Quartzsite or the La Paz County Board of Supervisors."*

The Quartzsite Chamber of Commerce is recognized by the Arizona Office of Tourism as the officially designated Local Visitor Information Center.

To make this perfectly clear, **the Quartzsite Chamber of Commerce has not lost its designation as an Arizona Office of Tourism LVIC.** You are a valued community partner, and we look forward to working with you to continue bringing visitors to the Quartzsite area.

Sincerely,

Tina Lynn Miller
Director of Communications