

Mark's Top Ten Questions The Media Should Be Asking About The Couture Fiasco
By Mark Belling, WISN-AM
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1. Is there a conflict of interest in Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele buying two huge condos atop The Moderne, another Rick Barrett project, right after pushing to give Barrett's firm exclusive right to develop the parcel proposed for The Couture?
2. What is the personal financial wealth of Barrett's partner Tan Lo and does Lo and his family have enough money to finance The Couture on their own?
3. Who decided Barrett and Lo's option to develop on The Couture site has no time deadline on it?
4. How much money are Barrett and Lo telling HUD they would put into the project that was actually their own funds? Anything?
5. Name the "investors" Lo and Barrett claim were investing in The Couture.
6. Is The Moderne, Barrett's other project, timely on its loan payments to the lender (a Chicago-based union)? (The loan is guaranteed by Milwaukee city taxpayers.)
7. Have other potential developers approached either the City of Milwaukee or Milwaukee County with alternate proposals to develop The Couture site?
8. How much public money has already been spent to aid Barrett and Lo? I'm talking about the garage demolition, the streetcar tracks, the site cleanup and the latest utility extension?
9. Have Barrett and Lo been involved in raising money for the campaigns of Mayor Tom Barrett and other city officials?
10. Do Barrett and Lo have hidden investors that have subsidized their current business and where exactly did Tan Lo's money come from?