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## Houston Politics

Blogging City Hall and Harris County government **with the Chronicle staff**[« County's legal bills for Rosenthal mounting | Main | The dry riposte »](#)

February 20, 2008

### City hotel claims \$23.5 million profit

With county officials debating whether the proposed Astrodome convention hotel would make more than the built Hilton Americas hotel announced Wednesday that it made \$23.5 million in profit last year.

The 1,200-room hotel next to the George R. Brown Convention Center set a record for earnings in its first year of operation.

"We would not have landed Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, the Produce Marketing Association or any other big clients here without a hotel of the size and quality of the Hilton Americas," said Dawn Ullrich, the hotel corporation board and director of the city's Convention and Entertainment Facilities Department, in a prepared statement.

Leroy Shafer, chief operating officer of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, has scoffed at Astrodome Redevelopment's claims that a 1,300-room Dome hotel would make money.

PKF Consulting, which analyzes financial trends in the hotel industry, concluded last year that the Hilton Americas could net \$50 million in its fourth year.

At Commissioners Court Tuesday, County Judge Ed Emmett questioned the validity of the PKF report by Astrodome Redevelopment Co., which has proposed the Dome hotel, paid for it.

The Hilton Americas' profit in its third year would be only half of what PKF Consulting projects the hotel would make in its fourth year. But Houston officials are so convinced the Hilton has been successful that they are

the city is considering whether to build a second convention hotel near the George R. Brown.

Posted by Bill Murphy at February 20, 2008 05:10 PM

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**Comments**

Wow! A \$23.5 Million profit. Do you think the City Employees Pension can be restored to what it v

Posted by: Peaches at February 20, 2008 07:14 PM

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Just trust Leroy. He's so much smarter than the rest of us...

Posted by: Festus at February 21, 2008 03:39 AM

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name a single hotel project that PKF has said was a dud. You can't because there aren't any, PKF met a hotel deal it didn't like because if it turns out they were wrong, they can always claim it wa execution that was flawed, not the plan. They get their money either way.

Posted by: Rorschach at February 21, 2008 09:17 PM

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But Houston officials are so convinced the Hilton has been successful that the city is consid whether to build a second convention hotel near the George R. Brown.

Why would the city need to get involved in another hotel if the Hilton is profitable?

Wouldn't Marriott or another company do it on their own?

Posted by: Davebo at February 22, 2008 01:20 PM

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