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I-Team: Fung Tried to Bring 38 Studios to Cranston, Offering “All Available Incentives”

How can Rhode Islanders Trust Fung?

PROVIDENCE, RI – For months, Mayor Allan Fung has been attacking Gina Raimondo on 38 Studios. Gina opposed the 38 Studios deal from the start. In contrast, according to an NBC10 report tonight, Mayor Fung was working to lure the company to Cranston, reportedly willing to “offer all available incentives” to the failed Republican-backed venture as it searched for a home in Rhode Island in 2010. [1] This comes less than 24 hours after he told voters on a debate stage he knew the deal “was a mistake in the first place.”

Mayor Fung has been attacking Gina, who wasn’t in office in 2010 and had nothing to do with the deal, hoping the whole time that voters would never find out that he actually tried to bring the company to Cranston.

“While Gina was warning Rhode Islanders about this risky deal, Allan Fung was apparently offering “all available incentives” to lure the company to Cranston,” said Peter Baptista, director of the Democratic coordinated campaign. “This is the height of hypocrisy. He outright lied last night in saying that he knew it was a bad deal from the start.”

“Rhode Island has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, in part because our leaders have for too long been involved in insider deals like 38 Studios at the expense of the taxpayers,” Baptista said. “We need a leader who has the right judgment on these issues. Gina Raimondo opposed 38 Studios from the beginning. Mayor Fung embraced 38 Studios and is now hypocritically attacking Gina.

Since the start of his gubernatorial campaign, Fung has deceitfully and falsely been claiming that he opposed the 38 Studios deal from the beginning. It turns out that he was yet another Rhode Island politician that became so enamored with a baseball star he tried to bring 38 Studios to Cranston:

- **“We all know that 38 Studios was a mistake in the first place.”** [2]
- **“We all know that this was a mistake from the first instance,** getting into the 38 Studios deal.” [3]

- “Patrick Sweeney with the Fung campaign told GoLocal that the Mayor "**would have opposed the [38 Studios] deal.**" [4]
- "**38 Studios was a bad deal and a bad investment from the very beginning** and now Rhode Island taxpayers are being asked to take the hit for bondholders who should have known better," [Fung] said in a statement." [5]
- “That’s why we should not be paying these debts in my opinion, regardless if anyone agrees with that 38 Studios loan guarantee **in the first place which, I didn’t!**" [6]

[1] WJAR, [10/29/14](#)

[2] WLNE debate, [10/28/14](#)

[3] WPRI debate, [10/21/14](#)

[4] GoLocalProv, [9/13/13](#)

[5] Associated Press, [5/13/14](#)

[6] WPRO, Dan Yorke Show, [5/13/14](#)