


[Course Reviews](#) | [Course Guide](#) | [Nevada Features](#) | [Resort Reviews](#) | [Vacation Guide](#) | [Las Vegas Map](#) | [Golf Packages](#)

Your ad here

Vegas Tee Times
 1-800-470-4622
Departments

- [Home](#)
- [Advertise Here](#)
- [Business of Golf](#)
- [Course Guide](#)
- [Course Reviews](#)
- [Equipment Reviews](#)
- [Feature Stories](#)
- [Course of the Week](#)
- [Golf Equipment](#)
- [Golf Packagers](#)
- [Golf Instruction](#)
- [Women's Golf](#)

Travel Tools


Las Vegas Insider

- [Golf Packages](#)
- [Best Bets](#)
- [Next Day Golf](#)
- [Resort Reviews](#)
- [Nevada Features](#)
- [Las Vegas Map](#)
- [Vacation Guide](#)
- [Attractions](#)
- [Nightlife](#)
- [Shopping](#)
- [Dining Guide](#)
- [Stage & Screen](#)
- [Galleries](#)
- [Vacation Homes](#)
- [Accommodations](#)
- [Las Vegas Golf News](#)
- [Nevada Golf Realty](#)
- [Nevada Golf Property](#)
- [LV Reader Forums](#)
- [Free Classifieds](#)
- [Link Directory](#)
- [Link to us](#)

Destination Guides

- [Reno](#)
- [Laughlin](#)
- [Henderson](#)
- [Mesquite, Nev.](#)
- [Red Rock Corridor](#)
- [Carson Valley](#)
- [Tahoe](#)
- [Utah](#)
- [St. George](#)

Interact

- [Submit a Press Release](#)
- [Letter to Editor](#)
- [Reader feedback](#)
- [Refer this site](#)

Featured Publications

- [TravelGolf.com](#)
- [WorldGolf.com](#)
- [GolfInstruction.com](#)
- [Luxury Golf](#)
- [Golf Course Realty](#)
- [GolfAcademies.com](#)

Destinations and... Publications USA

Also : [Desert Pines' lack of maps is dangerous and aggravating, says reader](#)
[Reader says greens horrible at Desert Pines](#)
[Walters courses are overpriced, reader complains](#)
[Lousy greens ruin day at Desert Pines Golf Club, reader says](#)
[Stallion Mountain Country Club members shafted, says reader](#)
[Reader says Stallion Mountain Country Club miserable](#)
[Bali Hai Golf Club in good shape, but too pricey, says reader](#)

NEWS ANALYSIS

Is Las Vegas still Billy Walters' pushover? Signs of at least token resistance forming

City council decision will tell if it's all hype or a real fight

By [Chris Baldwin](#),
 West Coast Bureau Chief,
 Golf Publisher Syndications



A zoning change could spell doom for Royal Links Golf Club, huge profits for Walters Golf.

Las Vegas FREE Tee Time Package Quote
 Call: 877-312-1900

LAS VEGAS (July 19, 2005) - The first time Billy Walters stood to gain huge profits off a questionable deal involving the public land that became Royal Links Golf Club, [Steve Miller](#) felt like a lone man fighting against a tidal wave of power and entitlement.

Miller knew the [Las Vegas](#) city council was prepared to sell Walters the land for \$5,600 an acre even though some local real estate experts put its value at closer to \$40,000 an acre and adjoining land had sold for \$30,000 an acre. Miller was certain Las Vegas taxpayers were being had and just as certain that nobody in the local government cared to take a stand.

So Miller, a former city council member himself, became a one-man opposition party. He borrowed an automated dialing service from a friend and used it to phone 60,000 registered voters in Las Vegas. He laid out the basics of what he calls "the sweetheart of all sweetheart deals" in that automated message and urged any taxpayers who objected to call the city council, to call the mayor, to show up at the meetings and let their voices be heard.

"I became the tempest in the teapot because nobody else was looking into these things," Miller says now.

That was six years ago. Now Walters Golf owner Billy Walters is going back before the Las Vegas city council on Wednesday, August 3 asking that a deed restriction be lifted on that land he bought for \$5,600 an acre in 1999, so he can tear down Royal Links Golf Club and turn its 160 acres into a housing development, a move that could boast the land's value to an estimated \$400,000 an acre. This marks the third time the council is scheduled to discuss the plan, with the first two postponed amidst [controversy](#).

The Clark County assessor's office now places the value of the Royal Links land at \$64 million. The city council sold it to Walters for \$894,000 total in 1999 in what Miller termed the "sweetheart of all sweetheart deals."

Only now everyone may not be so sweet on Walters' deals. Miller is once again raising his voice in opposition, but this time he's hardly alone. *The Las Vegas Review-Journal* came out with an editorial urging the city council to keep the deed restriction in place, which would mean no huge windfall for Billy Walters because the land could not be used for houses. In its editorial, the *Review-Journal* argued that "Mr. Walters could have access to land once owned by Las Vegas taxpayers at a \$54 million discount" if the deed is lifted.

This editorial opposition to Billy Walters' Royal Links deal comes in the wake of Travel.com stories, [photo galleries](#) and [reader complaints](#) detailing woeful course conditions on two of Walters Golf's other three golf courses, [Stallion Mountain Country Club](#) and [Desert Pines Golf Club](#). The cozy, curious deal that has many of the big Strip hotels [only hawking Walters Golf's](#) four courses has also been brought to light for the first time.

Could Las Vegas actually be becoming a little hot for Billy Walters, the businessman who has seen three indictments on state money laundering charges dismissed before they ever went to trial?

"For maybe the first time, Billy Walters is probably sweating over a deal with the local government," Miller says.

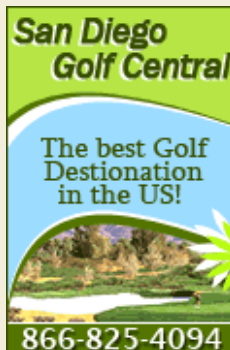
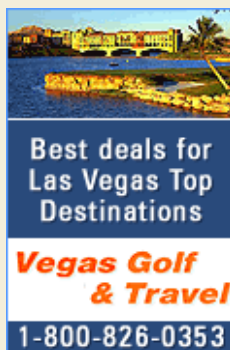
Return to the future?

This isn't like 1999 when one self-described "rabble rouser" with an automated dialing service is all that stood between Billy Walters and \$5,600 per acre. Then-Mayor Jan Jones attempted to paint Miller as a loose-cannon lunatic back

FREE Las Vegas Golf Package Quote
 We can help you find the best deals!
 800-470-4622

Free Wolf Creek Package Quote

Arizona Golf Package Quote
 Golf Arizona for less!
 1-800-426-6148

**FootJoy Closeout Golf Shoes**

Starting at only \$39.50, variety of models. Save up to 60% off MSRP.
[www.3balls.com](#)

Free Callaway Golf Package

Free X-series irons, woods, driver, putter, and bag! Survey required.
[www.leisure-offer.com](#)

Free Medicus Dual Hinge Driver

This men's golf swing trainer is free when you take sponsor's survey!

Book online... Save Time and Money. Please select a course to book online:

- [Aliante Golf Club](#)
- [Angel Park Mountain](#)
- [Angel Park Palm](#)
- [Badland's Golf Club](#)
- [Bear's Best Golf Club](#)
- [Black Mountain CC](#)
- [Boulder Creek Golf Club](#)
- [Dragon Ridge CC](#)
- [Fall's @ Lake Las Vegas](#)
- [Highland Falls Golf Club](#)
- [Las Vegas National Golf Club](#)
- [Legacy Golf Club](#)
- [Painted Desert Golf Club](#)
- [Palm Valley Golf Club](#)
- [Primm Valley Desert](#)
- [Primm Valley Lakes](#)
- [Red Rock Country Club](#)
- [Reflection Bay Golf Club](#)
- [Revere @ Anthem Concorde](#)
- [Revere @ Anthem Lexington](#)
- [Rhodes Ranch Golf Club](#)
- [Rio Secco Golf Club](#)
- [Siena Golf Club](#)
- [SilverStone Golf Club](#)
- [Tuscany Golf Club](#)
- [TPC Canyon's](#)
- [Wolf Creek Golf Club](#)
- [Las Vegas Paiute Snow](#)
- [Las Vegas Paiute Sun](#)
- [Las Vegas Paiute Wolf-](#)

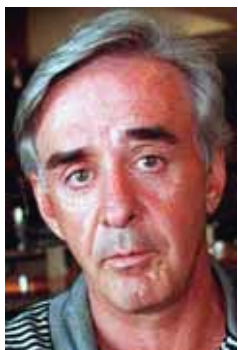
- [USAGolf.com](#)
- [USA Golf Courses](#)
- USA East**
- [GolfCarolina.com](#)
- [MyrtlebeachGolf.com](#)
- [HiltonHeadGolf.com](#)
- [Pinehurst Golf](#)
- [BrunswickGolfGuide.com](#)
- [MidAtlanticGolf.com](#)
- [OldDominionGolf.com](#)
- USA West**
- [GolfArizona.com](#)
- [ArizonaVacations.com](#)
- [GolfCalifornia.com](#)
- [MontereyGolf.com](#)
- [LasVegasGolf.com](#)
- [Mesquite Nevada](#)
- [ArizonaGolf.com](#)
- USA North**
- [GolfIllinois.com](#)
- [GolfOhio.com](#)
- [MichiganGolf.com](#)
- USA South**
- [GolfFlorida.com](#)
- [OrlandoGolf.com](#)
- [JacksonvilleGolf.com](#)
- [TampabayGolf.com](#)
- [FloridaGolfGuide.com](#)
- [GolfTexas.com](#)
- [GulfCoastGolf.com](#)
- [Robert Trent Jones](#)
- [GolfGeorgia.com](#)
- USA Northeast**
- [PennsylvaniaGolf.com](#)
- [GolfNewYork.com](#)
- [NewJerseyGolf.com](#)
- [NewEnglandGolf.com](#)
- Canada**
- [GolfCanada.com](#)
- [OntarioGolf.com](#)
- [GolfRockies.com](#)
- [RockiesGolf.com](#)
- [TravelGolfCanada.com](#)
- [CanadaGolfer.com](#)
- Caribbean**
- [CaribbeanGolf.com](#)
- Mexico**
- [TravelGolfMexico.com](#)
- Pacific**
- [HawaiiGolfGuide.com](#)
- [AustraliaGolf.com](#)
- Europe**
- [EuropeGolf.com](#)
- [GolfEurope.com](#)
- [ScotlandGolf.com](#)
- [StAndrewsGolf.com](#)
- [Ireland Golf](#)
- [England Golf](#)
- [Spain Golf](#)
- [Portugal Golf](#)
- Africa**
- [SouthAfricaGolf.com](#)
- And More!**
- [BadGolfer.com](#)
- [NetCaddie.com](#)
- [Rockies.com](#)
- [Advertising Info](#)
- [Contact TravelGolf](#)

- Free Stuff**
- [Free Golf Newsletter](#)
- [PR Service](#)

then. Jones held up before TV cameras an article Miller wrote for an alternative weekly newspaper criticizing the deal and declared, "I take exception." Miller did lose a contentious 1991 mayoral election to Jones and he later filed a libel suit against Jones for a last-minute campaign flier that Miller claimed damaged his reputation with false accusations. In 1999, some officials tried to use this info to paint Miller as nothing more than a man with a grudge.

Attempting to discredit the source of news seems to come straight from the Walters Golf playbook. The company sued TravelGolf.com in what TravelGolf.com President Robert Lewis calls "an intimidation tactic" when unfavorable reviews came out on Stallion Mountain Country Club.

Only now, the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* has come out in opposition of this new Royal Links deal, the Better Business Bureau secured a rain check to Walters' Desert Pines for two Kentucky golfers unhappy with the greens, and the superintendent of Desert Pines hung up on a *Golfweek* reporter when pressed about fungus on those greens. Now, no one thinks an automated dialing service will be necessary to ensure that this Wednesday's 9 a.m. city council meeting is filled with curious citizens.



Billy Walters

Billy Walters is actually offering to pay \$7 million for the right to get the deed restriction on the Royal Links land lifted. This \$7 million reflects the \$30,000-to-\$40,000-per-acre price the land was appraised at in 1999 (a figure Walters Golf and city officials disputed in 1999) plus 6 percent annual interest.

The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* editorial recognizes this and still argues the deed restriction should be kept intact, however, noting Walters' projected \$54 million, "no-risk proposition" profit on what was taxpayers' land.

This isn't like 1999. Or is it?

For Miller, a veteran observer inside and out of the Las Vegas political machine, still expects the new current city council to approve the lifting of the deed restriction.

"They'll make Walters sweat a little and they won't make the same kind of overt displays of support (the 1999 council) did," Miller says. "I think they'll all be very quiet, and careful not to say anything quotable, when this comes up on the agenda. But they'll vote it through.

"They'll sit there quietly and give Walters the votes he needs."

TravelGolf.com tried to contact Las Vegas city council members in the week before the July 20 meeting, but no calls were returned. A reporter specifically reached out to Councilman Steve Wolfson for an interview, requesting a phone interview or even an e-mail statement through his liaison. Wolfson, who has worked in both the Clark County District Attorney's Office and the United States Attorney's Office, did not respond.

Speaking in general, one of the city officials who handles the council's press requests said that council members "often do not want a comment about an issue before they've voted on it."

"I don't see any stand-up heroes on that council," Miller says.

Golfers aren't always interested in the politics. They are just wondering what's going to happen to Royal Links and if other Walters Golf courses will be headed for bulldozing with the Las Vegas real estate market booming.

"He's already torn down two of the three courses we're supposed to have at Stallion Mountain," Stallion member Art Olita says. "Who knows how long will have any course?"

Miller is convinced that Walters planned to demolish Royal Links all along, that making it a golf course for six years simply stood as a way to justify \$5,600 an acre.

"I think this has been planned from the beginning," Miller says. "And back in 1999, they probably thought this part of the deal would be a slam dunk as well."

Any opinions expressed above are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of the management. The information in this story was accurate at the time of publication. All contact information, directions and prices should be confirmed directly with the golf course or resort before making reservations and/or travel plans.

[FootJoy Closeout Golf Shoes](#)
Starting at only \$39.50, variety of models. Save up to 60% off MSRP.
[www.3balls.com](#)

[Free Callaway Golf Package](#)
Free X-series irons, woods, driver, putter, and bag! Survey required.
[www.leisure-offer.com](#)

[Free Medicus Dual Hinge Driver](#)
This men's golf swing trainer is free when you take sponsor's survey!
[www.ontheweb-offer.com](#)

[Myrtle Beach Golf Package](#)
Myrtle Beach company specializing in custom golf packages.
[www.linksunlimited.net](#)

[Free SkyCaddie GPS By Sky Golf](#)
Get the advantage of a professional tour caddie for free! Survey req.
[www.onlinerewardcenter.com](#)

Content for this site is provided by [GolfPublisher.com Syndications](#)

Readers Tee Off



[www.ontheweb-offer.com](#)

[Myrtle Beach Golf Package](#)

Myrtle Beach company specializing in custom golf packages.
[www.linksunlimited.net](#)

[Free SkyCaddie GPS By Sky Golf](#)

Get the advantage of a professional tour caddie for free! Survey req.
[www.onlinerewardcenter.com](#)

[Phoenix, Scottsdale Golf Packages](#)

Best courses, hotels to choose from!
1-800-426-6148

[FREE Florida Vacation Quote Package Deals!](#)

1-877-767-5445

[Myrtle Beach Golf Vacations](#)

Get a quote online or call now!
888-633-6102

[Hawaii Golf Travel Quote](#)

Try Big Island golf this year!
888-383-3633

[Myrtle Beach, Brunswick Cty., Wilmington](#)

Carolina's golf package experts.
888-633-6102

[Orlando Golf Tours](#)

Golf in sunny Orlando! Free package quote.
866-883-5475

[Palm Springs Golf Packages](#)

Golf's west coast jewel!

[FREE California Golf Package Quote](#)

Southern California, Palm Springs, Monterey and more! We can help you find the best deals!

THIS WEEK AT TRAVELGOLF.COM

[BadGolfer.com](#)
Q&A with Rush Limbaugh

[HiltonHeadGolf.com](#)
Not just golf in H.H.

[GolfFlorida.com](#)
Fishing, golf in Jacksonville

[LasVegasGolf.com](#)
Review: Mandalay Bay

[GolfInstruction.com](#)
Review: Big Bertha irons

[GolfTexas.com](#)
Houston's Old Memorial