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**PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL**

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**MINUTES ATTACHMENTS**  
**PLANNING AND STRATEGY**  
**COMMITTEE**

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**9AM, MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2018**  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
32 THE SQUARE, PALMERSTON NORTH

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## **PLANNING AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING**

3 September 2018

**NI52/18**

**Public Comment**

1. Public Comment - Peter Wheeler

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Councillors...

I am here today to make a plea,  
it is a very simple plea,  
it is a plea that can correct an incorrect decision made by council staff...and after all that is the role  
of councillors is it not!

My plea to you is to **collectively, and willingly cancel the permission** granted to the so-called 'NZ  
**Defence Industry Association Forum** from the 30th Oct to 3rd Nov 2018 at the **Central Energy  
Trust Arena in Palmerston North.**

The NZDIAF has a clear negative record over the last three years of costing tax payers hundreds of  
thousands of dollars as they use police to protect those who gather under its PR banner as they trade  
in weapons or equipment that makes WAR possible at a price.

It's not as if my plea isn't just, I believe that no self respecting person / Councillor can justify  
selling weapons of war to all sides of any conflict can be morally correct, but this is what  
Lockheed-Martin does and they are the major backer of the NZDIAF yearly sales drive.

The public of NZ has over the past three years have protested at the very presence of this mis-  
named group of salespeople. The evidence is over whelming of the public distaste in regard to this  
bunch of salesmen. First Wellington in 2015...Auckland in 2016...back in Wellington in 2017... Will  
Palmerston North in 2018 have to face the same public protest that grows larger every year. The PR  
hype that PN is the Defence hub of NZ is simply that hype!

Below is the back ground to my public comment:

Mayor PN City Councillor  
CEO PN City Council.

#### **Request Under the FIA**

1. Under the Freedom of Information regulations [Act] can you please supply me with a copy the  
original request to hold the NZ Defence Industry Association Forum from the 30 Oct to 1 Nov 2018  
at the Central Energy Trust Arena in Palmerston North.
2. Which Committee of Council holds responsibility for this consent and when were those  
Committee members informed of its receipt and approval. Was it before or after approval? FYI, As  
I understand it the PNCC ethical investment policy was developed by the Finance and Performance  
Committee.
3. Depending on your reply [within the 20 day time frame laid down by the FIA] I seek also to  
speak to the Committee or the full Council regarding the consenting of this matter.

Sincerely Yours

Peter J Wheeler  
Past Councillor  
29d West St PN

The following are a few brief comments from [3] other Lockheed Martin sponsored NZDIA events:

**In 2015 the normally under-the-radar conference came under scrutiny when police made  
mass arrests of protesters when it was held at the Wellington City Council-controlled TSB  
Arena.**

Most of the activists were arrested on trespassing charges, which were dropped earlier this year [2016/17] after a lengthy court battle with police.

The next year the conference was held in Auckland where it failed to really get off the ground., but returned to the capital in the year [2017].

Lockheed Martin, a multinational supplier of nuclear weapons, aircraft and arms, is the main sponsor of the forum

Wellington Mayor Justin Lester, under pressure from activists, agreed the forum should not return to any council sites. It was held at Westpac Stadium, because that venue is not under direct council control. Lester said the expo, the main sponsor of which was nuclear weapons, aviation and arms giant Lockheed Martin, was "not an appropriate event for a civic venue". The council wanted to steer clear of any associated conflict.

Before the 2015 forum, former United States intelligence adviser Paul Buchanan told Stuff that anyone with basic human intelligence-gathering skills would know arms industry forums were "absolute goldmines".

Buchanan said it would be no surprise to have representatives from not just the private intelligence sector, but the intelligence community itself.

"There will be foreigners there. I would not be surprised if there were representatives from the Chinese embassy. Maybe we'll see the US military attache show up. It will be an interesting who's who."

Advances in simulation, unmanned aerial vehicles, and "next-generation platforms" would be discussed.

#### One last piece of information:

Let me be specific about **Lockheed Martin** being the major sponsors of the weapons expo for many years - they manufacture nuclear bombs and made the bombs which killed 40 children in a bus in Yemen on 9 Aug 2018 based and 155 civilians attending a funeral in Oct 2016 also in Yemen. As a result, President Obama halted the sale of guided munition technology to Saudi Arabia as they were not taking care to avoid hitting non-military targets. These sales were reinstated by the Trump administration in March 2017.

Another sponsor of the expos, **MAS Zengrange based** in Lower Hutt, they design, develop and manufacture remote initiation systems for use with artillery, rockets and mortars. They have confirmed that they sell their products to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen.

We all have a duty of care to global citizens and the environment to stop proliferation of weapons and trade fairs for war profiteers to showcase their technology.

We have additional responsibilities as a Peace City with a Mayor for Peace and a receiving centre for refugees for whom we have an additional duty of care.