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Friday, September 25, 2009

**Business Owners Guide to the G-20**

# McCrory braves working Downtown in order to be in the midst of G-20

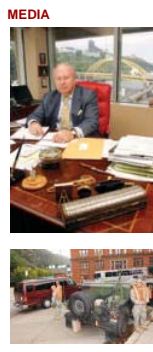
Pittsburgh Business Times - by [Anya Litvak](#)

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Some of the rumors Ken McCrory recorded in the days leading up to the G-20 Summit include: "A well-placed concussion grenade would break all the glass at PPG; if the police have to, they will 'lock down' buildings and you won't get out"; and catapults will be used to toss bowling balls."



"Seriously — I heard this one," he said. "I wonder if anyone knows

how to use a catapult anymore (or how inaccurate they are)," he added later.

McCrory cancelled his plane tickets to a forensic accounting conference in Orlando so he could absorb the G-20 from his home on Mount Washington and his ninth floor office on Stanwix Street.

While the other employees of accounting firm **McCrory & McDowell** LLC were working from home or at clients' offices away from the Downtown clamor, McCrory made sure to be in the midst of it all.

He spent the better part of Wednesday morning "watching the four fools" hanging off the West End Bridge through a set of binoculars. (Eight **Greenpeace** activists rappelled off the side of the bridge displaying a large sign that read: "Warning. Climate destruction. Reduce CO2 emissions.")

"I was just sitting there thinking, God, this is an unproductive day," he said on Wednesday afternoon. "I keep getting up, taking my binoculars" and running up to the window to do all that absorbing.

"Oh, here comes a caravan down the parkway," he reported. "Black vans, unmarked cars. Looks like the state police."

On Thursday morning, McCrory, expecting congestion, waited an extra half an hour before leaving for work, but at 9:15 a.m., his car cruised down Grandview Avenue passing only two news trucks.

McCrory got out and walked across the Smithfield Bridge alongside sparsely populated **Port Authority** buses.

"They have some cool coast guard boats on the river with guns mounted on the front of the boat," he said. "I waved at the guys; they waved back."

Maybe protesters don't get up this early, he said with palpable disappointment.

"It's a good thing I came heavily armed," McCrory joked after arriving in the office Thursday morning. "I ceded to my wife's wishes and I wore an older suit," he said. "But I did wear a Versace tie," a blue number with gold sun gods.

Sitting alone in the office Thursday morning, McCrory said: "It looks like Pittsburgh on a Sunday morning." His plans for the day included working on a client's project, doing his



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tax return, "and maybe spend half an hour thinking about things — contemplating my navel."

**UPDATE: Later Thursday**

McCrorry's party of one quickly became a party of two after he discovered that co-worker John McCann, a principal at the firm, had actually arrived in the office at 6:30 a.m. unbeknownst to McCrorry.

At lunchtime, the two set off for the Duquesne Club. The pair counted seven other patrons at the restaurant.

It would be fair to say that McCrorry's protest against the protesters (who were no where in sight) went unnoticed, he said.

Digging deeper, McCrorry said he's actually protesting again disruption.

"I'm not going to let anybody disrupt my life," he said.

Around 2 p.m., binoculars in hand, McCrorry watched as a delegation came down from the Smithfield Street Bridge with police cars, shuttle vans, limos, an Escalade and an ambulance. Not two minutes after, regular traffic resumed and McCrorry was at his desk, fielding inquiries from co-workers in more remote locations. "Did you make it in today," they e-mailed. "Did you have any problems? One guy said: Did you 'water my plants?'"

For more on how other companies are faring during the G-20, see **[It's G-20, and we're open for business.](#)**

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