



Stephanie Kienzle <stephanie.kienzle@gmail.com>

Phillip Ford Travel to Dallas March 2022

Stephanie Kienzle <stephanie.kienzle@gmail.com>

Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 9:48 PM

To: "Ford, Phillip" <Phillip.Ford@citynmb.com>

Cc: Mark <Mark.Antonio@citynmb.com>, Phillip <Phillip.Ford@citynmb.com>, Anthony <Anthony.Defillipo@citynmb.com>, Fortuna <Fortuna.Smukler@citynmb.com>, Phyllis <Phyllis.Smith@citynmb.com>, Jay <Jay.Chernoff@citynmb.com>, Michael <Michael.Joseph@citynmb.com>, McKenzie <McKenzie.Fleurimond@citynmb.com>, Daniela <Daniela.Jean@citynmb.com>, Marcia <Marcia.Fennell@citynmb.com>, "Arrojo, Jose (COE)" <jose.arrojo@miamidade.gov>

Bcc: Barbara Kramer <barbaralmkramer@gmail.com>, Bruce Lamberto <blamberto@aol.com>, Donna Rockfeld <dmc2019@yahoo.com>, Keith I Myers <KeithlokepaMyers@gmail.com>, M Kazan <mikazan305@gmail.com>, Laura Hill <laurahill454@gmail.com>, "Milberg, Glenna" <gmilberg@wplg.com>, Jim Garrett <Jgfsu85@hotmail.com>

Dear Mr. Ford,

I realize that the facts I have exposed are inconvenient, but let me be perfectly clear. My so-called "allegations" are based entirely on the attached City's Procurement Card Policy & Procedures, which I have thoroughly reviewed in its entirety, and which I am perfectly capable of understanding.

You may think of me as "just a blogger," but I strongly suggest you do not underestimate my abilities as a retired paralegal of over 30 years, with extensive experience in research and contract law. I have absolutely no problem understanding municipal and state law, as well as the county and state Codes of Ethics, and the Florida Bar's Rules, Ethics & Professionalism. In other words, I am not an idiot.

I also strongly urge you to refrain from accusing the City's Finance Office, and specifically Chief Financial Officer Marcia Fennell, of reconciling and approving your problematic Purchasing Card charges. As I recall, on March 16, 2023 Ms. Fennell already rebutted the ex-City Manager's false accusations against her by stating that **"Enforcement of Non-Compliance Matters is at the Procurement level – not Finance."**

Had you familiarized yourself with the Procurement Card Policy & Procedures, you would know that the Finance Department is not responsible for reconciling or approving transactions. Those are the responsibilities of the respective Department heads. In fact, with respect to the Procurement Cards, the only duties of the Finance Department are to:

- Receive approved monthly statements from all cardholders' department
- Receive consolidated statement from Procurement Card issuer
- Confirm that all charges are authorized by Department Representative(s)
- Notify Departments when approved monthly statements are not received
- Pay all monthly charges from consolidated statements
- File and store statements, receipts, etc.
- Administer 1099 reporting

I will not stand by silently while you attempt to disparage one of the few highly qualified and intelligent employees still on the payroll after ex-Manager Arthur "Duke" Sorey purged the workforce of all intelligent life at City Hall. You are not even in Ms. Fennell's league, so don't even try to blame her for your inability to do your own job.

Your rationalization for blatantly violating the Procurement Card Policy & Procedures is completely laughable. The fact that you "were directed to take this particular trip only days before the conference," does not excuse you from accepting a per diem check for meals that were provided by the conference sponsors, nor does it excuse you from also charging those meals on your taxpayer-funded Purchasing Card. That, sir, is not only against all municipal procurement card policies, but it is also a violation of Florida Statute 112.061.

Prove me wrong.

I am especially concerned about the ribeye steak dinner you charged on March 16, 2022 in the amount of \$56.96, as evidenced on the attached Bank of America Purchasing Card statement for the period ending April 4, 2022, as well as

the attached receipt for this meal.

& & & 407 & & &
Open Palette
Sheraton Dallas
400 N Olive Street
Dallas, TX 75201
Contact Us: 214-922-8000
932070006 Freddy H

CHK 40998 B31/FORD
3/16/2022 4:41 PM

1 PRIME RIBEYE MEDIUM	48.00 .
Subtotal	\$48.00
Sales Tax	\$3.96
Total Due	\$51.96

GRATUITY: _____ **5.00**

TOTAL: _____ **56.96**

ROOM # _____

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

XXXXXXXXXXXX9888
VISA 042861
Auth 51.96

According to your Travel Expense Report, a copy of which is attached hereto, you received a per diem reimbursement of \$31.00 for this meal.



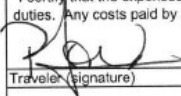
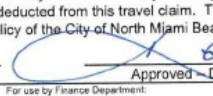
Travel Expense Report

Phillip Ford	Traveler's Name	Procurement Management	Department	527843	Traveler's Vendor Number
Dallas, Texas	Destination	March 13, 2022	Departure Date	March 17, 2022	Return Date

ITEM	Day Date	3/13	3/14	3/15	3/16	3/17	TOTAL
Lodging		\$254.30	\$254.30	\$254.30	\$254.31		\$ 1,017.2
Meals	Rate						
Breakfast	\$		\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00		\$ 48.00
Lunch	\$		\$17.00	\$17.00	\$17.00		\$ 51.00
Dinner	\$	\$51.75	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$51.75	\$ 196.50
Registration Fee		\$595.00					\$595.00
Airfare		\$959.20					\$959.20
Taxi/Shuttle							\$
Tolls/Parking							\$
Vehicle Rental		\$803.82					\$ 803.82
Mileage							\$
Other							\$
Total		\$2,664.07	\$318.30	\$318.30	\$318.31	\$51.75	\$3,670.73

Instructions: 1. This form must be completed and submitted after each trip. 2. Complete each section for which travel expenses are claimed. Include totals for each day and for each line item. 3. This form is to be supported by paid receipts for all claims except meals. 4. Within ten (10) working days of return, accounting must be made on this form, properly signed, and submitted to the Finance Department. Excess advanced funds shall be returned to the Finance Department with submission of this form. 5. Use additional forms as needed.	Grand Total from above	\$ 3,670.73
	Less Prior Payments or Advances	
	Hotel	Hotel name CHRF xxxxxx
	Per Diem	Prepaid CHRF xxxxxx
	Registration	Org name CHRF xxxxxx
	Other	
	Amount Due	\$3,670.73
	City or Traveler	

I certify that the expenses reported were actually incurred by me as necessary traveling expenses in the performance of my official duties. Any costs paid by another agency have been deducted from this travel claim. This claim is true and correct and conforms to the Travel Policy of the City of North Miami Beach.


 Date: 10/11/22
 Approved:  Arthur H. S. 10/18/22
 Date:

For use by Finance Department:

In fact, you were so happy with this \$56.96 taxpayer-funded ribeye steak dinner on March 16, 2022, that you posted on Facebook that very day that you "just knew there would be a 5 star steakhouse" nearby.



Phillip Kutty Ford is at Sheraton Dallas Hotel.

March 16, 2022 · Dallas, TX · 🌐



I just knew there would be a 5 star steakhouse within a few blocks of my hotel. Hashtag: downtown Dallas is kinda boring.



Again, prove me wrong.

I'm sorry, Mr. Ford, but there is absolutely no excuse for someone who earns a taxpayer-funded salary and benefit package of **\$171,339**, to request a \$31.00 taxpayer-funded per diem reimbursement for a meal, and then have the nerve to charge taxpayers an additional \$56.96 for that same meal. Worse, you deliberately sought out a 5-star restaurant to enjoy at the expense of the hard working residents of North Miami Beach with a **per capita income of \$25,500.00**, or less than 15% of what they pay to keep you employed, many of whom could never afford to enjoy a \$48.00 ribeye steak.

And by the way, as long as someone else was picking up the tab for your expensive meal, the least you could have done was leave a decent tip. How embarrassing!

Like your former boss, Duke Sorey, you have a difficult time accepting responsibility for your actions. And, like your ex-boss, you seem to believe that people are so stupid they will believe whatever lies you spout. You, sir, would be wrong.

I certainly hope you do not make the mistake of underestimating me again.

Do yourself a favor and resign immediately.


Very truly yours,

Stephanie Kienzle

On Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 6:27 PM Smukler, Fortuna <Fortuna.Smukler@citynmb.com> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

3 attachments

 **NMB Procurement Card Policy and Procedures Form.pdf**
259K

 **PHILLIP FORD_471529xxxxxx9888_05510338_234207635_20220404_Redacted.pdf**
259K

 **Open Palette Receipt - \$56.96.pdf**
27K