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## Phillip Ford Travel to Dallas March 2022

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Wed, Mar 29, 2023 at 11:04 PM

To: Mark Antonio <mark.antonio@citynmb.com>

Cc: "Ford, Phillip" <Phillip.Ford@citynmb.com>, "Defillipo, Anthony" <anthony.defillipo@citynmb.com>, Fortuna Smukler <fortuna.smukler@citynmb.com>, Phyllis Smith <phyllis.smith@citynmb.com>, "Chernoff, Jay" <jay.chernoff@citynmb.com>, "Joseph, Michael" <Michael.Joseph@citynmb.com>, McKenzie Fleurimond <mckenzie.fleurimond@citynmb.com>, Daniela Jean <daniela.jean@citynmb.com>, "Fennell, Marcia" <Marcia.Fennell@citynmb.com>, "Arrojo, Jose (COE)" <jose.arrojo@miamidade.gov>

Dear Mr. Antonio,

I have had a chance to review Mr. Ford's travel documents more thoroughly, and there are several problematic items with his March 13, 2022 trip which I wanted to bring to your attention, as follows:

1. According to the attached agenda for the conference, breakfast was provided on 3/14/22, 3/15/22, and 3/16/22, and lunch was provided on 3/15/22. Not only did he receive a per diem for those meals, but he also used his taxpayer-funded P Card for three of those meals, as follows: 3/14/22 Breakfast \$13.50; 3/15/22 Lunch \$22.49; 3/16/22 Breakfast \$13.50. This is not just double-dipping, but triple-dipping.
2. The attached Pre-Travel Authorization was not signed by the Requestor, Finance Director, and City Manager until 9/16/22 -- a full six (6) months after Mr. Ford actually took the trip. How did his trip get authorized after the fact?
3. His Travel Expense Report was not signed by the Traveler and the "Dept. Head" until 10/11/23 and 10/18/23 -- a full seven (7) months after the trip. Why did it take so long?
4. The conference ended at 12:30 PM on 3/16/23. Mr. Ford had plenty of time to fly back on that date, yet he billed taxpayers an additional \$289.32 to stay an extra night at the Dallas Sheraton. Why?
5. To make matters even worse, during that extra night on 3/16/23, Mr. Ford charged \$56.96 for a "Prime Ribeye" at the Open Palette Restaurant, while at the same time receiving a per diem, courtesy of North Miami Beach taxpayers, many of whom could never afford a \$50 steak for themselves. Now, that's chutzpah!

Mr. Antonio, this is just one of dozens of examples of the malfeasance and gross abuse of taxpayer money that was allowed under the Sorey regime. There was no oversight and certainly no limit to the egregious misappropriation of public funds by the previous Manager and his staff.

I would urge the Mayor and Commissioners to order a forensic audit immediately in order to get a true picture of the fiscal damage that has been done, and to be able to hold the offenders accountable for their actions, including but not limited to filing complaints with local and state law enforcement if it is determined that criminal activity has taken place.

Accepting reimbursement for meals and then charging those same meals on a taxpayer-funded P Card is a violation [Florida Statute 112.061 Per diem travel expenses of public officers...](#), specifically section (10), which states that any public employee who submits a fraudulent claim [for per diem reimbursement] "is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Whoever shall receive an allowance or reimbursement by means of a false claim shall be civilly liable in the amount of the overpayment for the reimbursement of the public fund from which the claim was paid."

Now that there is a brand new administration in North Miami Beach, it is my hope that the residents will once again be able to enjoy a government free of corruption and lawlessness.

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8 attachments

 **P3C 2022 Conference - Registration Agenda 3-14 to 3-16.pdf**  
808K

 **Open Market Receipt - \$13.50.pdf**  
32K

 **reportRunAction (27).pdf**  
6K

 **reportRunAction (26).pdf**  
6K

 **reportRunAction (29).pdf**  
6K

 **Pre-Travel Authorization -Phillip Ford-Dallas TX -3132022-Redacted.pdf**  
1028K

 **Phillip Ford Travel Expense Report-3132022 Dallas TX Conference.pdf**  
251K

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