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Michael A. Pizzi's Investigation

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To: Mario Diaz <Mario.Diaz@citynmb.com>

Cc: "Chernoff, Jay" <jay.chernoff@citynmb.com>, Fortuna Smukler <fortuna.smukler@citynmb.com>, Phyllis Smith <phyllis.smith@citynmb.com>

Dear Mr. Manager and Mr. Attorney,

I just reviewed the Investigative Report on Arthur Sorey furnished to the City, and I want to note that Mr. Pizzi only briefly touched on the problem that he "received from the City of North Miami Beach was significantly less than the actual number of purchases on all the P Cards issued."

The attached database provided by Chief Information Officer Ricardo Castillo to Mr. Pizzi only reflected only **approximately one-third of the actual P Card expenditures** made by former City Manager, his hand-picked staff, and four of the seven elected officials.

It is important to note that Mr. Castillo previously worked in the City of North Miami when Sorey was the Deputy City Manager. He was hired by Sorey in North Miami Beach on September 27, 2021, and he immediately became entrenched in the same North Miami-like culture of corruption promoted by Arthur Sorey during his two-year tenure.

As for the database provided by Mr. Castillo, Mr. Pizzi noted in his report that "Mr. Sorey used his P Card a total of 73 times. However, according to prior spreadsheets, Sorey used his P Card a total of 218 times."

Mr. Diaz and Mr. Herin, that was just the tip of the iceberg.

I compared Mr. Castillo's database to the spreadsheets provided by Arthur Sorey to the Mayor and Commission in a Memo dated March 24, 2023, copies of which are attached, and I discovered the following discrepancies:

- Athalie Edwards: Castillo database – 83 purchases; Sorey spreadsheet – **119 purchases**
- Francisco Medranda: Castillo database – 119 purchases; Sorey spreadsheet – **160 purchases**
- Kemarr Brown: Castillo database – 17 purchases; Sorey spreadsheet – **33 purchases**
- Gedel Merzius: Castillo database – 45 purchases; Sorey spreadsheet – **65 purchases**
- Willis Howard: Castillo database – 91 purchases; Sorey spreadsheet – **109 purchases**
- Paule Villard: Castillo database – 29 purchases; Sorey spreadsheet – **97 purchases**
- Michael Joseph: Castillo database – 73 purchases; Sorey spreadsheet – **108 purchases**
- McKenzie Fleurimond: Castillo database – 111 purchases; Sorey spreadsheet – **171 purchases**
- Daniela Jean: Castillo database – 68 purchases; Sorey spreadsheet – **124 purchases**
- Fortuna Smukler: Castillo database – 36 purchases; Sorey spreadsheet – **55 purchases**
- Anthony DeFillipo: Castillo database – 16 purchases; Sorey spreadsheet – **37 purchases**

The above sampling alone reflects that **only 37% of the actual number of P Card purchases** were provided to Mr. Pizzi by Ricardo Castillo.

The withholding of this crucial information appears to be a deliberate attempt to sabotagt Mr. Pizzi's investigation of Arthur Sorey by one or more of his "Friends & Family Plan" hires. I firmly believe that a criminal conspiracy was at play here. This is not hyperbole. The statistics speak for themselves.

I cannot stress enough that Mr. Pizzi's investigation was greatly compromised by the lack of complete information provided to him. Had Mr. Pizzi been given all of the information he requested and should have received, his analysis of the P Card abuse that took place during the Sorey administration would have been infinitely more devastating.

Thank you,

Stephanie Kienzle

12 attachments

 **NMB General Purchase Card Spend Detail 1.xlsx**
860K

 **P Card List-Athalie Edwards.pdf**
111K

 **P Card List-Francisco Medranda.pdf**
123K

 **P Card List-Kemarr Brown.pdf**
80K

 **P Card List-Gedel Merzius.pdf**
92K

 **P Card List-Willis Howard.pdf**
108K

 **P Card List-Paule Villard.pdf**
105K

 **P Card List-Michael Joseph.pdf**
113K

 **P Card List-McKenzie Fleurimond.pdf**
133K

 **P Card List-Daniela Jean.pdf**
115K

 **P Card List-Fortuna Smukler.pdf**
91K

 **P Card List-Anthony DeFillipo.pdf**
83K