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CASE STUDY ANALYSIS: Denis Ryan's spending on Board Member travel and conference trips

Megan Fox

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CASE STUDY ANALYSIS: Denis Ryan's spending on Board Member travel and conference trips
November 7, 2014 at 6:16pm



Using the Freedom of Information Act, we've been analyzing the spending of Denis Ryan, the Vice President of the Orlando Park Public Library Board of Trustees. During monthly Board Meetings, Ryan is hostile to the public, refuses to listen or pay attention when the public is speaking, and he sits there during meetings reading Tiger Beat, Highlights for Children, or some other kind of magazine or papers instead of paying attention to what's going on. He does not take notes. He does not participate in debate or deliberation. There are potatoes and pumpkins who pay more attention and participate in things more than Denis Ryan does. So...we wonder why this man -- of all people -- is being sent on expensive trips to conferences all the time. More than anyone else on the Board, Denis Ryan is dispatched to conferences supposedly on "library business". Yet, he does not bring back any notes from the conferences, any proof that he attended conference events, any learnings from the conference, any presentations or materials from the

conferences, etc. He also does not submit proper documentation for reimbursement for these conferences. For instance, instead of submitting an actual hotel bill or receipt or real proof of an airline ticket being purchased, Denis Ryan submits instead a handwritten sheet of paper with numbers scribbled on it in his own hand. And then asks for a check to be cut to him for \$1,700 or more! This should not be happening, folks.

Example #1 = 2012-March Philadelphia Trip

Here, Denis Ryan asked for (and received) a reimbursement check for over \$1,700. But the paperwork he submitted should not have justified him being reimbursed for anything and he provided no proof that he actually attended any conference events. There's no proof he stayed in a hotel, no proof he flew on an airplane, and no proof of credit card charges. He claims he paid cash to eat in some restaurants, but one of them is a handwritten check (that could have easily been forged) and another is a slip of paper from McDonald's showing he paid with a twenty. That would be pretty easy to fabricate too using on basic Photoshop. Did Denis Ryan really go to Philadelphia like he said he did in March 2012? Since he brought back no documents, notes, or materials from the conference there is no proof that he really did (at least none that the OPPL produced responsive to this FOIA request). If they have such proof, then why didn't they produce it?

ORLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ryan, Denis
104610 - Board Training & Education

reimbursement for PLA conference expenses

3/23/2012

50939

1,714.37

Cash - Marquette

reimbursement for PLA conference expenses

1,714.37

DUPLICATE

USE WITH #1693 ENVELOPE

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APPENDIX H

Reimbursement Request Form

DATE 3/20/12

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO

Denis Ryan

AMOUNT

~~\$1697.16~~

\$1714.31

EXPLANATION

<u>PLA airfare</u>	<u>\$ 321.60</u>
<u>hotel</u>	<u>1261.45</u>
<u>tips + meals</u>	<u>114.11</u>
<u>3 mileage @ .555</u>	<u>\$17.21</u>

REQUESTED BY:

Mary Weimar

DEPARTMENT

Admin - Trustee

APPROVED

Mary Weimar acct #104610

CHECK NUMBER	SERVICE	TAXES	GUESTS
861374			
1			
2	3-Drift	2.00	
3			
4	2-Drift	1.00	
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

Family
steak
Lunch

05-14492
05 +6.99
15 +1.95
+0.78
+0.17
+0.14
001-1763
1-12

KITCHEN CHECK

Date	Table	Guests	Server	312346
B	9			

APPT - SOUP/SAL - ENTREE - VEG/POT - DESSERT - BEV

CP
C-H-B

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING HAZARDISI

PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT
TERMINAL E
PHILADELPHIA, PA
19153
!!! THANK YOU !!!
TEL# 215-365-7301 Store# 34236

KS: 2 Mar. 17 '12 (Sat) 11:51

MP: SIDE 1 KVS Order 29

QTY	ITEM	TOTAL
1	SML. DIET COKE	1.39
1	ANGUS BELLINI	3.99
Subtotal		5.38
Tax		0.43
Eat-In Total		5.81
Cash Tendered		20.00
Change		14.19

COMPLIMENTS OF HAZARDISI

travel	12.00
travel	12.00
travel	12.60
meal	9.44
	20.00
	10.26
	12.00
	5.81
tip	20.00
	<u>5114.11</u>

FLIGHT	321.60
HOTEL	1261.46
TRANS.	36.60
FOOD	59.46
	51677.10
plus tips	\$20-

UPDATE: This mystery gets stranger because it turns out that fellow Board Members Nancy Wendt Healy and Mary Ann Ahl also attended the conference in Philadelphia, but they billed taxpayers \$1,200 less than Denis Ryan did for the same conference. Ahl and Healy did not put in for hotel reimbursements. Only Denis Ryan did that. No hotel bills was provided though and no airfare receipts were produced by any of them, so we have no idea what days they flew in and out. It appears, though, that Ahl and Healy flew into Philly in the morning and flew back to Chicago later that night after attending a few events and then coming home. Denis Ryan somehow managed to rack up \$1,200 in hotel charges while the other two Trustees brought their trips in at relatively modest amounts (in comparison). What's going on here?

ORLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ryan, Denis
104610 - Board Training & Education

reimbursement for PLA conference expenses

3/23/2012

50939
1,714.37

Cash - Marquette reimbursement for PLA conference expenses

1,714.37

PRODUCT DLT104

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ORLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Healy, Nancy
104610 - Board Training & Education

reimbursement for PLA expenses

3/29/2012

50954
427.23

Cash - Marquette reimbursement for PLA expenses

427.23

PRODUCT DLT104

USE WITH 91933 ENVELOPE

Deluxe For Business 1-800-225-6380 or www.nebs.com

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ORLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ahl, Mary Ann
104610 - Board Training & Education

reimbursement for PLA conference

3/23/2012

50900

440.58

Cash - Marquette

reimbursement for PLA conference

440.58

PRODUCT DLT104

USE WITH 91603 ENVELOPE

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APPENDIX H

Reimbursement Request Form

DATE 3/30/12

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO

Dennis Ryan

AMOUNT

~~\$1697.10~~

\$1714.31

EXPLANATION

PLA surface \$ 321.60

hotel 1261.45

tips + meals 114.11

franchise x .555 \$17.21

REQUESTED BY:

Mary Weimar

DEPARTMENT

Admin - Trustee

APPROVED

Mary Weimar acct #104610

APPENDIX H

Reimbursement Request Form

DATE March 27, 2012

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO

Nancy Healy

AMOUNT

\$427.23

EXPLANATION

surface \$ 311.60

meals and miscellaneous \$115.63

REQUESTED BY:

Mary Weimar

DEPARTMENT

Administration

APPROVED

(MWD)104610