



COMPTROLLER'S INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

City of Bolivar Mayor's Office

June 4, 2021

Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller of the Treasury



DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIONS



JASON E. MUMPOWER
Comptroller

June 4, 2021

City of Bolivar Mayor
and City Council
211 North Washington Street
Bolivar, TN 38008

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury conducted an investigation of selected records of the City of Bolivar Mayor's Office, and the results are presented herein.

Copies of this report are being forwarded to Governor Bill Lee, the State Attorney General, the District Attorney General of the 25th Judicial District, certain state legislators, and various other interested parties. A copy of the report is available for public inspection in our Office and may be viewed at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason E. Mumpower", is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller of the Treasury

JEM/MLC

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

City of Bolivar Mayor's Office

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury investigated allegations of financial improprieties by a City of Bolivar Councilmember (Councilmember). The Comptroller's Office investigated the Councilmember's unauthorized use of the Mayor's city credit card. The results of the investigation were communicated with the Office of the District Attorney General of the 25th Judicial District.

BACKGROUND



The City of Bolivar (Bolivar) is in Hardeman County, Tennessee, and is the county seat of Hardeman County. Bolivar is governed by an elected mayor and city council.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

- **A CITY OF BOLIVAR COUNCILMEMBER USED THE MAYOR'S CITY CREDIT CARD FOR PERSONAL EXPENSES TOTALING \$503.83**

On July 16, 2019, the Councilmember reserved a hotel room for personal use at Staybridge Suites in Atlanta, Georgia, using a City of Bolivar credit card assigned to the City Mayor. The Mayor stated he had not talked with the Councilmember about a trip to Atlanta and he never gave the Councilmember his city credit card. The Mayor had the city credit card in his wallet at the time the Councilmember made the charge in Atlanta, Georgia. However, the Mayor recalled a trip to Washington, D.C., in March 2019, where he and the Councilmember attended a conference. He stated that the Councilmember flew out early for the trip, and he gave the Councilmember pre-authorization to check-in to the hotel early, since the hotel reservation was made on the city's credit card. The Mayor stated he spoke with the Councilmember over the phone after he faxed the authorization form to the hotel, and he spoke with a hotel representative about the early check-in

as well. He remembers providing the full city credit card number to the Councilmember during that phone conversation. The Mayor told investigators he feels this is when the Councilmember got the city credit card number. The Mayor stated that the Washington, D.C. trip and hotel stay was the only time he ever spoke with the Councilmember regarding the city credit card number.

The City Administrator provided investigators with email communications between herself and the Operations Manager for Staybridge Suites. Upon review of the emails, investigators were able to ascertain that the Councilmember made the hotel reservation using the Mayor's city credit card, and the Councilmember provided his personal Mastercard credit card at check-in for incidentals. The Councilmember booked his hotel stay from July 25, 2019, through July 29, 2019. The Staybridge Suites' Operations Manager mentioned that the hotel charged the Mayor's city credit card in the amount of \$503.83, on July 16, 2019, as an advance purchase used to reserve the Councilmember's room. The Operations Manager further stated that Staybridge Suites does not keep credit card information on file, hotel employees can only view the card type and the last four digits of the credit card. She also provided the hotel's check-in policy which details upon check-in, employees verify the individuals photo identification (for example, a driver's license or passport) and accept a debit or credit card for any incidental charges. This debit or credit card must have the same name as the photo identification provided.

Investigators analyzed the hotel receipt and determined that the Councilmember provided his personal address for the hotel stay, and he charged an advance deposit of \$503.83 to the Mayor's city credit card on July 16, 2019, for lodging in Atlanta, Georgia, at Staybridge Suites, for July 25 through July 29, 2019. **See Exhibits 1 and 2.**

Exhibit 1



08-14-19

	Folio No. : 142155	Room No. : 439
	A/R Number :	Arrival : 07-25-19
	Group Code :	Departure : 07-29-19
	Company : Leisure	Conf. No. : 23499403
	Membership No. : PG 181973013	Rate Code : 10MEP
	Invoice No. :	Page No. : 1 of 1

Date	Description	Charges	Credits
07-25-19	Deposit Transfer at Check-in deposit		503.83
07-25-19	Room Charge	124.88	
07-25-19	State Sales Tax	9.97	
07-25-19	City Occupancy Tax	9.97	
07-25-19	Georgia State Hotel Motel Fee	5.00	
07-26-19	Room Charge	82.32	
07-26-19	State Sales Tax	6.59	
07-26-19	City Occupancy Tax	6.59	
07-26-19	Georgia State Hotel Motel Fee	5.00	
07-27-19	Room Charge	82.32	
07-27-19	State Sales Tax	6.59	
07-27-19	City Occupancy Tax	6.59	
07-27-19	Georgia State Hotel Motel Fee	5.00	
07-28-19	Room Charge	127.79	
07-28-19	State Sales Tax	10.22	
07-28-19	City Occupancy Tax	10.22	
07-28-19	Georgia State Hotel Motel Fee	5.00	
Total		503.83	503.83
Balance		0.00	

Thank you for staying with us! Qualifying points for this stay will automatically be credited to your account. Please tell us about your stay by writing a review here - www.ihgrewardsclub.com/review. We look forward to welcoming you back soon.

Guest Signature: _____
I have received the goods and / or services in the amount shown herein. I agree that my liability for this bill is not waived and agree to be held personally liable in the event that the indicated person, company, or associate fails to pay for any part or the full amount of these charges. If a credit card charge, I further agree to perform the obligations set forth in the cardholder's agreement with the issuer.

Exhibit 2



	Date : 08-14-19 Time : 09:32 Recept. No. : 17214 Conf. # : 43165590
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ADVANCE DEPOSIT									
Date	Description	Exp Date	Amount						
07-16-19	Visa XXXXXXXX [REDACTED]	XX/XX	503.83USD						
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Arrival</th> <th>Departure</th> <th>Group ID / Room Type</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>07-25-19</td> <td>07-29-19</td> <td>K1QN</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Arrival	Departure	Group ID / Room Type	07-25-19	07-29-19	K1QN		
Arrival	Departure	Group ID / Room Type							
07-25-19	07-29-19	K1QN							

Guest Signature

Cashier No. 1879

Hotel Receipt and Advanced Payment on Hotel Room

On September 6, 2019, the City Administrator informed investigators that the Councilmember arrived in her office with a cashier's check totaling \$503.83 to reimburse the city for the hotel stay that he charged to the Mayor's city credit card. The Councilmember told her he was not sure how the hotel charged the Mayor's city credit card, because he did not have the card in his possession. Also, he told the City Administrator that the hotel had the Mayor's city credit card number on file from previous hotel reservations made for both he and the Mayor. The City Administrator did not accept the Councilmember's cashier's check, and she prepared an official letter on the city's letterhead documenting her conversation with the Councilmember along with a copy of the cashier's check.