

Message

From: Tik Root [Ex. 6]
Sent: 7/19/2018 2:44:49 PM
To: Block, Molly [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=60d0c681a16441a0b4fa16aa2dd4b9c5-Block, Moll]; Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b293283291dc44e0b5d1c36be9281d8a-Press]
Subject: Foreign Travel/Per Diem (Center For Public Integrity)

Hi,
My name is Tik Root, a journalist with the Center for Public Integrity. I'm writing a story about America's foreign travel per diem system.

One example I'm using is former Administrator Pruitt's trip to Italy last June. I have a few related questions:

1. Mr. Pruitt spent/collected \$1942 in per diem costs while in Italy. Most all of that appears to have fallen within the per diem limits, except one night in Rome at the Hotel Baglioni which cost \$628 (well above the \$359 limit). Do you know why this night cost so much more? Was the overage approved? Why or why not?
2. Relatedly, why was such a luxury hotel deemed necessary in the first place?
3. It's also unclear what meals Mr. Pruitt received for free while in Italy. Only a couple were deducted from per diem (as per policy), but reports seem to indicate that quite a few other meals were provided as well (both in Rome and Bologna). Can you clarify?
4. There were a few miscellaneous things charged (like internet fees) that could have conceivably already been covered under the "incidental" per diem. Thoughts on that?
5. More generally, has the EPA reviewed it's travel approval and spending practices at all recently?
6. Have things changed at the EPA since then or could incidents like these occur again?

Any thoughts would be much appreciated. Please don't hesitate to be in touch for an clarification, and I'm happy to chat by phone as well [Ex. 6]

Many thanks,
Tik

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