



The Florida House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

Richard Corcoran
Speaker

September 18, 2017

Mr. Paul Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer
Port Tampa Bay
1101 Channelside Drive
Tampa, Florida 33602

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Section 11.143, Florida Statutes, affords the Florida House of Representatives "the right and authority to inspect and investigate the books, records, papers, documents, data, operation and physical plant of any public agency in this state, including any confidential information." This letter comes to you pursuant to this authority and in connection with recent reports concerning the Port Authority's spending on entertainment, meals, and other discretionary expenditures.

As a tax-funded entity, Port Tampa Bay is accountable to the public for how it spends its funds. On June 28, 2013, the Governor approved HB 1367, which became chapter 2013-267, Laws of Florida. That law repealed a cap on expenditures that could be made without affirmative vote of four members of the Port's governing body. Recent reports indicate possible excessive spending occurring after the law's effective date. While Port Tampa Bay now has adopted new policies in an effort to rein in that spending, the House seeks to understand how the new policies will adequately prevent inappropriate and wasteful expenditures going forward.

In turn, the House requests from Port Tampa Bay the following documents:

1. All receipts, requests for reimbursement, and credit card statements reflecting expenses incurred by Port Tampa Bay or by anyone on its behalf since June 28, 2013, for entertain and marketing. Examples, albeit not exclusively, of these expenses are as follows: club or association membership dues or assessments, meals, drinks, travel, lodging, entertainment, event, green fees, fishing, tickets to sporting events, concerts or other live performances, automobile or vessel rentals, gasoline, auto service, purchase of goods other than office supplies, and convention and trade show fees and expenses (including registrations, exhibits, booths, displays, hospitality suite, and advertising).
2. All communications (including written, electronic, phone texts, and social media posts) relating to the review, verification, or approval of the type of expenses listed above and their reimbursement. If there are employees or agents who

might have any of these communications on their private electronic devices, please advise and identify who those individuals are and how they may be contacted.

3. All records identifying any participants, employees, and agents, guests (including family members) who were invited to participate in any of the events to which the expenses listed above relate or who otherwise received a benefit as a result of the incurrence of those expenses.

4. All records not otherwise captured by the requests listed above of expenditures made by the Port for entertainment, parties, and events and for exhibits, booths, displays, or hospitality suites at conventions or other events. Please also include all records reflecting the utilization, traffic, and marketing contacts generated as a result of such expenditures. Include all documentation of the benefits purchased by such expenditures, including complementary or otherwise included lodging, meals, drinks, or entertainment.

5. A full accounting of total marketing and promotional expenditures by month since June 28, 2013, and of monthly Port fees collected from July 1, 2013, to the most recent month available.

6. With respect to all travel expenses incurred by or on behalf of the Port for the period running from January 1, 2013, to June 30, 2017, all records of travel itineraries and all records reflecting the purposes of such travel.

7. A full accounting of the use of ad valorem tax appropriations from Hillsborough County from July 1, 2013, to the present.

8. Records sufficient to reflect any indebtedness incurred by the Port Authority since January 1, 2013, the source of refunding each particular debt incurred, and the use of the proceeds of such indebtedness.

I am confident that the Tampa Port Authority, as a public agency, shares our commitment to full transparency and accountability in the spending of public funds. In that spirit, I look forward to the cooperation of Port Tampa Bay in responding fully and promptly to this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Corcoran', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard Corcoran
Speaker