

1/13/06 - T/w Margaret, re Cr Cd issue - No word from legal advisor, Dick James

1/18/06 - Went to J Motley's to get last year's Farm Plan invoices - He gave me a copy of his Jan 12<sup>th</sup> letter to S Garst re the Credit Card problems - told Margaret, and she also had a copy

1/19/06 - Margaret in City Hall - She had talked to Penny, who had been told by Alan that Jerry Branson was using the City Credit card to "make reservations" and was "going to pay the City back!" When the credit card statement came in, she took it to Alan or Bridget, and said nothing to Margaret or myself - I TOLD MARGARET THAT WAS OBVIOUSLY A SIGN OF COLUSION, AS IT APPEARED ALAN HAD ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ACTION AND TOLD NO ONE ABOUT IT!! I ALSO TOLD MARGARET, IT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN CARE OF IMMEDIATELY!! Margaret said she was going to talk to Jerry Branson tonight at the premeeting before she decided what to do or took any further action!; I decided it was time for me to cover MY TAIL by preparing a chronology and providing the information to the City Attorney

1/24/06 - Margaret called: She T/w J Branson last night-he paid off credit card & cut it up, info about Gilmore telling JB it was OK to use the card made it to R Murphy via Linda Lane-I told MT, that means it's all over town;

1/25/06 - Jim rec'd ltr from Mayor that J Branson would pay the Cr Cd bill last Friday-Do I know if he did? NO - Jim suggested I check w/VISA to be sure, Jim also reviewed JB's cell phone usage & asked does he still have phone I DON'T KNOW-Jim suggested I check & let him know, like the VISA bill, Jim had also asked the Mayor about the VISA charge for the 2004 IML rooms on his card, no response as yet-suggested I check to see if the charges were correct and be sure we didn't pay double the room charge; I informed Jim Margaret had told me it appeared Alan (and probably the Mayor) had knowledge that JB was going to charge his vacation to the city card, then when the bill came, Alan made sure Penny gave the statement to himself; Made copies of all the VISA statements in file for J Motley & organized them, then took copies to Jim's office

Steve, if you have any questions, please let me know.

~~C. Margaret~~

MT reviewed prior to  
my delivering this memo  
to S. Garst's office.  
CJ  
1/30/06

To: City Attorney Steve Garst

From: Chuck Milam

Subject: **Credit Card Use**

Date: January 30, 2006



As the Budget Officer / Office Manager, I feel I must inform you, as City Attorney, of the information I have, and my involvement regarding the use of a City credit card by Commissioner Jerry Branson – especially in light of what I was just told last week by Commissioner Thomason! Thus far, my involvement in this situation is chronicled below (these are notes from my daily work log):

12/28/05 - Barb brought to my attention Jerry Branson's City Credit Card had a balance in excess of \$4,000 and she had no record of any charge slips or payments being brought in or made - I asked her to call Jerry B to get the info needed to pay up the billing – Barb also called VISA and requested a listing of the charges be sent to us, later Jerry B came in and told Barb **IT WAS HIS PERSONAL CHARGES** on the card and he would take care of them himself, so Barb gave Jerry the statement- I told Barb, when we get the charges info from VISA, I WANTED IT so I could pass it along to the proper people;

1/3/06 - Talked with Margaret T, About J Branson's Credit card balance & the fact Barb had ordered a charge listing from VISA and when we got it I would let her know the details,

1/6/06 - Margaret called and told me she had talked to Mayor Smith after last night's Agenda Meeting, re Jerry Branson's charge card - The Mayor told her he had "told them at the office" to hold Jerry's council paychecks until the card balance was paid off!! - Margaret wanted me to verify the assertion - I talked to Jeanne T and Barb A, neither of which had heard of any such request; MT said she told the Mayor that **WOULD NOT WORK** and Jerry needed to pay the card off immediately, and assured the Mayor Jim Motley would find the charges in the audit and put it in the Management Letter - The Mayor said he would tell Jerry to "take out a loan" and pay off the card;

1/9/06 - Barb received and gave to me, the VISA Cr Cd charge history for Comm Branson, from Jul - Dec 2005, showing a bal due of \$4,000+ - I made a copy of it and gave to Margaret; Per Margaret's instructions, took copy of VISA billing info to Jim Motley and briefed him on what it contained

1/10/06 - Margaret called - She talked to Commissioners Morgan and Boyer about J Branson's VISA billing, had called Dick James to have him give her advice, then asked Dick to intervene-Dick was going to call Steve Garst and advise Steve of the seriousness of the acts - Also, Margaret talked to Jerry B last night and confronted him with the VISA and the Cell phone usage problems - She told Jerry he had to take care of the VISA bill immediately and Jerry told Margaret he was also going to get his personal cell phone back - Margaret asked me to watch the records to make sure both of Jerry's promises were kept

1/11/06 - Met with Margaret Thomason and Jim Motley @ Jim's office, re we discussed questions regarding the 2004-05 audit Jim is trying to close out - credit card hotel reservations w/out proper documentation in the file as to the rooms being used, IML expenses not documented IAW the Travel Policy, the problems caused by the recent discovery of inappropriate charges to City credit cards - Jim requested more info, He was also concerned about a \$1,200 charge on the Mayor's credit card at Hotels.com, for which there was only a note that the expense was for IML

1/12/06 - Called VISA and ordered statements for ALL city credit cards for the last 12 months transactions - should receive in 7 - 10 days, made copy of Travel Policy for J Motley