

Dear Mr. Stone,

You have expressed an interest in a handful of expenditures made by the San Diego Democrats for Equality (“the Club”) last calendar year (2017). In your email to DFE President Will Rodriguez-Kennedy, you identified a series of expenses that were made – and authorized – by our club’s Executive Board. Please see our responses below.

1. CYD Volunteer & Community Outreach

Alaska Airlines - Seatac, WA 98188-5304 - Staff Transportation - \$612.82
Alaska Airlines Seatac, WA 98188-5304 - Staff Transportation - \$266.41
Alaska Airlines - Seatac, WA 98188-5304 - Staff Transportation \$53.75
Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. - Stamford, CT 06902-8911 - staff lodging - \$616.76
Lakeland Village Rentals - South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-8947 - ~~NextGen Training~~ Youth lodging - \$1,082.35
Lakeland Village Rentals - South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-8947 - ~~NextGen Training~~ Youth lodging - \$487.40
Lakeland Village Rentals - South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-8947 - ~~NextGen Training~~ Youth Lodging \$594.95
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-8947
Lakeland Village Rentals - South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-8947 - \$39.00
Hotels - \$6673.70
Rental Cars - \$759.96

Board Response: Last year, we approved a budget of \$15,000 to assist ALL 57 California Young Democrats from the South State Region with travel and costs associated with CYD events, including: the California Democratic Party (CDP) / CYD convention in Sacramento in May; the CDP /CYD Executive Board meeting in Anaheim; the CYD Biennial Retreat in South Lake Tahoe; and, the CDP Executive Board meeting in Millbrae.

57 Young Democrats received financial assistance for lodging, rental cars, convention fees and limited meals depending upon their stated needs, which were communicated to South State Regional CYD leadership. The Club did not vet, select or determine amounts related to individuals. The Club’s role is limited to the reimbursement of expenses submitted by the South State Regional CYD program.

We did identify one error. Our report filing of income and expenditures mistakenly categorized some items under “NextGen Training.” This was a misunderstanding on my part and will be corrected.

2. Office & Staff Expenses

Lyft & Uber - \$3915.92
Parking – \$330.00

Board Response: It is standard practice for Democratic organizations such as the California Democratic Party and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee to offer mileage and parking reimbursements for officers and staff engaged in the conduct of business. For example, the California Democratic Party offers up to \$200/mo mileage reimbursement for paid field organizers. We initially considered using this model in August when we approved two mileage reimbursements for our two earliest staff members that amounted to approximately \$190 and \$170 respectively. However, after performing a cost analysis, we determined that if we offered that reimbursement model, the club would incur an annual expense of approximately \$6,800.

(Calculation based on \$170 x 8 employees x 5 months = \$6,800)

Instead, to reduce expenses, we opted to pilot a program offering Lyft services instead of mileage reimbursement. Due to this innovative approach, we saved roughly \$2,800 of expected expenditures. Lyft usage was limited to travel to worksites and authorized Club events.

3. Office Furniture - \$4218.50

Board Response: In 2017, the Club opened an office located at 1238 University Avenue. To provide furnishings for the office, we made expenditures in that effort.

4. 2016 Events:

Tom Homann Law Assn. - San Diego, CA 92103-3398 - Election Night Party - \$300.00
Vinavanti Urban Winery And Tasting Room - San Diego, CA 92103-3404 - Pride Fundraiser Expenses \$1,501.68
Vinavanti Urban Winery And Tasting Room - San Diego, CA 92103-3404 - Pride Fundraiser Expenses \$90.00
Vinavanti Urban Winery And Tasting Room - San Diego, CA 92103-3404 - Pride Fundraiser Expenses \$50.00
Vinavanti Urban Winery And Tasting Room - San Diego, CA 92103-3404 - Pride Fundraiser Expenses \$39.40
Vinavanti Urban Winery And Tasting Room - San Diego, CA 92103-3404 - Pride Fundraiser Expenses \$81.00
Pride Parade Decorations \$39.71 – Target - Minneapolis, MN 55403-2542
Pride Parade Decorations \$35.15 – Vons - Phoenix, AZ 85038-9093
Felix Xie - Whittier, CA 90601-2204 - Pride Reception Photographer \$204.00

Board Response: The Homann and Vinavanti expenses above were in relation to the following events:

a. An Election Night member and community event - in which we collaborated with the Tom Homann Law Association to split expenses.

b. The San Diego Democrats for Equality 2016 Pride Kick-off and Club Fundraiser

The fundraiser was held at the Vinavanti Urban Winery and Tasting Room. Photographer Felix Xie was retained to take pictures at the fundraiser and the Pride Parade the next day. The approximately \$2400 in costs invested, generated more than \$14,000 in donations to the Club.

c. San Diego LGBT Pride Parade and Festival

For decades, the San Diego Democrats for Equality (once known as the San Diego Democratic Club) has maintained a consistent presence at the San Diego LGBT Pride Parade and festival. These expenditures were relevant to our participation in this event and used to decorate our Pride Booth and the large truck that accompanies our contingent in the parade.

5. Community Outreach Events:


Human Rights Campaign
Washington, DC 20036-3200
San Diego HRC Gala \$364.50

Board Response: As an organization with a significant history within our LGBT community, we consistently authorize and send representatives to various events to network and provide leadership/input on issues impacting the LGBT community, our membership, and the greater community. For example, we send representatives to The Human Rights Campaign annual San Diego event.

- 6.** With respect to DFE President Will Rodriguez-Kennedy and the CYD C.O.R.P.S. Slate, they independently raised money for their campaign for CYD leadership via a GoFundMe account, which is separate and distinct from the club's accounts.

Should you have questions, please email me at SDJeepBoy@aol.com.

Respectfully,



Craig Roberts, DFE Club Treasurer

Content approved by DFE Club Board

Ryan Trabuco, Vice President of Resource and Development
Susan Guinn, Vice President of Political Action
Craig Roberts, Treasurer

Sapphire Blackwood, Secretary
Rickie Brown, Director At-Large
Carlos Salazar, Director At-Large
Michelle Krug, Director At-Large