



Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>

Auditor Sand Releases Report on the Office of Governor

Murphy, Alex [IGOV] <Alex.Murphy@governor.iowa.gov>
To: Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>

Wed, Mar 2, 2022 at 9:58 AM

Laura,

Please see pg. 13 of this report linked below. Other states have successfully used CRF for Governor's Office staff salaries.

<https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/documents/budget/lac/10-day-federal-crf-review-request-33-39-7-07-2020.pdf>

Thanks,
AM

Alex Murphy | Communications Director
Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Gov. Kim Reynolds & Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg
515-802-0986 | alex.murphy@governor.iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov

From: Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 7:53 AM
To: Murphy, Alex [IGOV] <Alex.Murphy@governor.iowa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Auditor Sand Releases Report on the Office of Governor

Alex, I'm seeking comment generally on the report the State Auditor's office issued yesterday, and I have a few specific questions as well.

1. How does the governor's office explain Table 3 and Table 4 (attached), which clearly demonstrate that the figure of \$448,448.86 was calculated not by figuring out how much time staff spent on pandemic-related work, but by determining the shortfall in the governor's office budget and the amount needed to balance that budget before the books closed on FY2020?

2. Why didn't the governor's office provide supporting documentation while state auditors were initially working on this issue? The Department of Management provided a 159-page packet to the State Auditor's office in December 2021, but if such documentation existed, why not give it to auditors earlier?

3. Public records provided to me on January 3, 2022 indicate that there was no written correspondence during 2020 between the governor's staff and staff at the U.S. Treasury's Office of Inspector General regarding the use of CARES Act funds to cover part of permanent staff salaries. However, the governor's office response on page 6 reads,

"Based on communications with the State Auditor's Office and the Treasury OIG, the use of CRF funds to reimburse the salaries and benefits of Office of the Governor employees is an allowable expense. The only issue is what documentation is necessary to prove that Governor's Office employees were responding to the pandemic from March 15, 2020 through June 30, 2020. We will work directly with the Treasury OIG to ensure compliance with Treasury guidance on this issue."

Did anyone at U.S. Treasury OIG ever give Sara Craig Gongol or anyone else verbal or written assurances that it was fine to use Coronavirus Relief Fund money in this way? If so, when did that happen? Please provide a copy of any written communication from Treasury OIG on this issue.

4. The new report states on page 6,

"On November 1, 2021, the Treasury OIG reviewed and concurred with this finding. Also, the Treasury OIG informed this Office they had met with representatives from the Office of the Governor and told them the same."

Can you confirm that Treasury OIG officials met with representatives of the governor's office and told them they concurred with state auditors' finding that the \$448,448.86 should be returned to Iowa's Coronavirus Relief Fund?

Thank you in advance,

Laura

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sonya Heitshusen** <Sonya.Heitshusen@aos.iowa.gov>
Date: Tue, Mar 1, 2022 at 8:55 AM
Subject: Auditor Sand Releases Report on the Office of Governor
To:

Auditor of State Rob Sand today released a report on the Office of Governor for the year ended June 30, 2020. A copy of this report is available at <https://www.auditor.iowa.gov/reports/file/68014/embed>.

Please contact me with any questions or to schedule an interview with Auditor Sand.



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