

Questionable financial expenditures

From The People's Olive Branch <peoplesolivebranch@protonmail.com>

To nfadmin@fsresidential.com

Date Wednesday, December 7th, 2022 at 10:20 AM

Hello Mr. Vince Pino,

I am reaching out to you in my official capacity as the Managing Editor and Investigative Journalist for The People's Olive Branch.

According to public filing, on January 7th 2020, the Copper Ridge/Brandon HOA community made questionable payments to the Farm Bureau located on 100 S. Mulrennan Rd. Valrico, FL 33594. This payment was supposed to be for the use of their facilities during 2020. However, according to filings and minutes, the HOA board did not have meetings at the Farm Bureau this year due to COVID restrictions.

The most concerning issue is that the payments made to the Farm Bureau were made on behalf of the Somerset Association Community and not on behalf of the Copper Ridge community, thus spending homeowners' HOA dues when it wasn't warranted. According to public filing, the Somerset community does not belong to the Copper Ridge/Bandon HOA community and "Should not have been paid", as stated in the civil court filing.

My question is, in your official capacity as a property manager at FirstService Residential, how was this allowed to be paid and why would you or your superiors not question and prohibit such an expenditure?

According to your Regional Director at FirstService Residential, Rachel Mayer in an email exchange with the HOA Board Treasurer Mrs. Catchings, FirstService Residential's Treasury department has complete control of the bank accounts and does not allow the board members to review and audit expenditures via the bank accounts directly.

If so, why if your organization allowing questionable financial expenses that do not coincide with the goals of the community members or the membership?

The Copper Ridge/Brandon HOA Association, as a legal corporation should have a Treasurer with the rights to review and audit community expenses. Why would FirstService Residential prohibit the treasurer from exercising her fiduciary duties supported by the State of Florida, while at the same time, allowing expenses that are inconsistent with the membership's goals?

I look forward to your speedy response.

Thank you

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