Selected Testimony from the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct
October 23, 2014

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Lets' start with the facts. This is different actually than the CSI [complaint]. There is no anonymous source. There is just simply nothing. There is pure speculation in this complaint as to what Senator Hayden did or his wife did regarding Community Action of Minneapolis. It is entirely speculative and is based on the complainant, Senator Hann's reading of the audit. There is not any mention in the audit, ever, about anything specifically regarding Senator Hayden or Mrs. Hayden. So we got no facts, nothing specific, not even an anonymous source – there's just nothing. Here we have another ethics complaint, a second ethics complaint that is made before there is any investigation. Now I just heard for the first time from Senator Hann that there was a request made for documents that was addressed last night. But that is the thing that you do before you make an ethics charge against your one of your colleagues in the Senate. You don't throw it out there based on newspaper articles and no mention of all of Senator Hayden and then try to investigate it later and see if there's any support for those claims.

2:00:15
So let me break down the complaint into two parts. The first part is an unsupported allegation that Senator Hayden accepted perks and per diem. And the second part is that as a board member, he didn't conduct himself properly.

Regarding personal gain – never was there any per diem taken by Senator Hayden. Never was there any per diem or cash payments made to or accepted by Senator Hayden and he is here under oath and he will testify to that. There are no facts regarding Senator Hayden in the audit or in the articles, no specific – of course he's mentioned because he resigned his position, but it doesn't address that.

2:01:52
Yes, they were reimbursed for some expenses. For example for the Arrowwood Resort, which was a board meeting and you can see at Exhibit I an example of the agenda for the 2011 board meeting at Arrowwood, there are meetings all day. And for the Board member, there was reimbursement for expense – and in fact that was for Mrs. Hayden, Mrs. Terry Hayden, who has special expertise in this area because of her work at Hazelden. There was no reimbursement for expenses for Arrowwood for Senator Hayden.

.ıe went, I think one time, maybe twice, paid his own way, and if the kids were there they also paid for their own activities. That's what the facts show. There's nothing untoward about that, again, I suspect that all of you, including Senator Hann, at one time or another have gone to conferences and perhaps you bring your spouse or children along, that's separate from whatever's reimbursed for the conference.

2:07:30
There is absolutely nothing specific, not even an unnamed source, not even someone anonymous who said Senator Hayden knew the facts, knew the finances and didn't do anything about it. Or anything like that. That's not the case here. That's not what we're talking about with Community Action. This is something that came, that everybody – many people were surprised with and there's been a lot of coverage and a lot of investigations – no question about that. But that does not translate into an ethics violation.

Senator Hayden testimony

2:08:30
I just want to reemphasize what Mr. Nauen has said I've never received any personal gain from Community Action Minneapolis. My wife and I volunteered our time to support the organization and its goals. Like other nonprofits, Community Action Board paid for some, but not all of our expenses serving on the board. I was not involved in the financial management of the organization – it was handled by the executive committee and the finance committee. We were provided with monthly financial reports and budgets, annual audits by the Wipli firm and there was no reason that I suspected there were financial mismanagement of the organization.

2:12:00

That is something that I'm extremely concerned about....My sense would be that the organization, and when I was serving with the organization, and I think my wife would say the same, is that things were going well, people were being served appropriately and that these allegations were new and foreign to us. I don't want to go with my gut, because everything that I knew at the time was that things were going well with the organization and that people were being served. What I want to know now as these review and forensic audits and others are happening is what actually happened to those dollars, were they appropriately disbursed, was the job of weatherizing being done, were the programs being adequately, services given, I'm deeply concerned.

2:15:00

I wasn't' aware of a lot of those things, I certainly wasn't aware of personal travel, if that's true, most certainly wasn't aware. You know, the organization has the annual Board meeting and retreat...but what I wasn't aware of and still anxious to find out how those things were paid for, what the costs were, so I wasn't aware of any improprieties as now starting to come out as they start to go through this report and do a very thorough audit of the organization.