



Roger A. Norman
Legislative Auditor
500 Woodlane Suite 171
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Re: Executive branch podium expenditure

Dear Mr. Norman,

As a concerned Arkansan and the director of For AR People, a nonprofit committed to transparency in state government, I'm writing to request an audit of the Governor's Paris, France expenditures and executive office expenditures between May and September of 2023.

The recent disclosure of a \$19,000 custom podium expenditure is especially troubling to me and my organization; according to receipts and emails obtained by attorney Matt Campbell via the Freedom of Information Act, it appears the Governor's Office may have misused taxpayer funds in purchasing the podium. It also appears representatives of the Governor's Office subsequently lied to the public about the purpose and accounting practices related to said expenditure.

Regarding state government abuse of taxpayer dollars, it is my understanding that there is no direct course of action for a citizen to make a formal complaint to an Arkansas state entity. If that is not the case, I would appreciate your direction toward next steps. However, our organization has also filed a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General, and now I am reaching out to your office to request an audit.

At For AR People, my work advocates for a fairer, more transparent state government. I would like to express my gratitude to you and your team members at Legislative Audit for your duty to public resource accountability, responsible financial management of our state's departments, and diligence in reporting your findings to Arkansans. My assumption is your work may, at times, feel thankless and go unnoticed; I would like to remedy that today with my sincerest appreciation for your office.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gennie R. Diaz".

Gennie Diaz
Executive Director, For AR People