

1200 COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
227 W. JEFFERSON BOULEVARD
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46601-1830



PHONE 574/235-9241
FAX 574/235-7670
TTY 574/235-5567

CITY OF SOUTH BEND JAMES MUELLER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

SANDRA KENNEDY
CORPORATION COUNSEL

ALADEAN M. DEROSE
CITY ATTORNEY

October 7, 2025

Redress South Bend
1138 College Street
South Bend, IN 46628
Via email: info@RedressSouthBend.com

Re: Public Records Request AR25-0860 -- Emails

To Whom It May Concern:

Your public records request seeking certain emails has been referred to me. Specifically, you requested the following information:

Emails Between: *Jgathers@SouthBendIN.Gov (Jordan Gathers),
SDavis@SouthBendIN.gov (Shalon Davis), ARoush@SouthBendIN.gov (Amy Roush)
Mark Neal (Board of Park Commissioners, Address Unknown)*

Subject/Search Terms: *"Vivica Fox", "Fox", "Vivica", "Black History Month", "event",
"First Source", "1st source", "check", "payment", "reimburse", "sponsor"*

Date: *12/01/2024 - 05/31/25*

The City conducted a search using the above referenced search criteria and a total of ten e-mail messages were returned as responsive results. Of these ten emails, seven are disclosable to you. The three email records not being disclosed to you are being withheld in accordance with Ind. Code § 5-14-3-4(b)(6) because each contains intra-agency or interagency advisory or deliberative materials that are expressions of opinion or are speculative in nature and are communicated for the purpose of decision making. In addition, minor redactions were applied to one disclosable email to remove confidential financial information in accordance with Ind. Code § 5-14-3-4(a)(5) and an attachment to one disclosable email was removed to obscure information required to be kept confidential by federal law in accordance with Ind. § Code 5-14-3-4(a)(3) and 26 U.S.C. § 6103.

If you have any questions, you may contact our department at (574) 235-9241 or apra@southbendin.gov.

Sincerely,

Danielle Weiss

Danielle Weiss
Senior Assistant City Attorney

DANIELLE WEISS
THOMAS E. PANOWICZ

MICHAEL SCHMIDT
ADAM E. TAYLOR

KYLIE CONNELL
JOHN DORBIN, JR.

From: [Shay Davis](#)
To: basanford1@gmail.com
Cc: [Amy Roush](#); [Jordan Gathers](#)
Subject: 10th Annual City of South Bend Black History Month Program and Reception | Vivica A. Fox Contract
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 6:09:00 PM
Attachments: [Vivica A. Fox Contract Agreement 2025 Amended VPA Foundation Final.pdf](#)

Hi Beth,

Per your request when I met you at 1st Source Bank on yesterday, please see the signed Contract for Vivica A. Fox.

I was unable to forward it to you on yesterday because I had to have her re-sign it for a second time since some of the dates and the way payment was being issued & received changed.

Thank you,
Shay

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made effective the 14th day of February 2025 between the City of South Bend, Indiana Venues Parks & Arts Department (the "City"), a Municipal Corporation organized and operating under the laws of the State of Indiana and Vivica A. Fox, Independent Contractor.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the City, through the Venues Parks & Arts Department ("VPA"), promotes community engagement and dynamic experiences at the Century Center; and

WHEREAS, the City is celebrating the 10th Annual Black History Month Awards Ceremony and Reception; and

WHEREAS, the City is holding a community event; and

WHEREAS, the Contractor is a Professional Entertainer; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that due to the Contractor's experience and expertise, it is in the best interest of the City to retain the services of the Contractor and to do so pursuant to the terms of this Agreement in support of the Black History Month Awards Ceremony and Reception.

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained herein, the City and Contractor hereby agrees as follows:

Section 1. Duties of the Contractor and City

The Contractor will be present at the 10th Annual Black History Month Awards Ceremony and Reception from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at the Century Center. The program may go over by 30-45 minutes due to pictures. The Contractor has agreed to share brief remarks regarding the importance of Black History Month, celebrating with her hometown of South Bend and more.

At all times during the performance of their services under this Agreement, the Contractor shall adhere to the highest degree of professionalism, technical skills and standards.

Section 2. Consideration.

The total consideration under this Agreement shall be Twenty - Five thousand dollars (\$25,000) paid directly to contractor, plus First-Class Round-Trip Airfare, a two-night hotel stay in South Bend, and a personal driver. The driver will be in a SUV. These accommodations also are included for the Contractors Manager. The Contractor has agreed that the entire payment of twenty-five thousand dollars (25,000) will be due after the signing of this contract by both parties and upon arrival on February 19th (photo of cashier's check will be sent to contractor's manager). A payment in the amount of three-hundred dollars will also be included paid directly to Contractor for the Contractor's Driver in Los Angeles to and from the Airport.

The Contractor has agreed to accept full payment at once and if for any reason or circumstance that the Contractor is unable to attend any of the events, the City is entitled to a Full Refund of \$25,300.

The Contractor agrees to participate in a reasonable number of media interviews to promote the event and to post on Contractors social media promoting the locations experienced during the stay in South Bend.

Section 3. Term and Termination.

This Agreement shall commence on February 17th, 2025 ("Effective Date") and shall end on February 21st, 2025 ("Expiration Date"). This Agreement may only be extended by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

Section 4. Changes in Scope of Services.

The Contractor understands and agrees they shall not commence any additional work or change in the scope of the work unless authorized in writing by the City. No claim for additional compensation shall be made by Contractor in the absence of the prior written approval of the City.

Section 5. Governing Law; Compliance with Laws.

This Agreement shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Indiana. Any disputes under this agreement which cannot be resolved by the Parties shall be brought in a court of competent jurisdiction in St. Joseph County, Indiana.

The Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations in performing their services under this Agreement.

Section 6. Relationship/Independent Contractor.

The relationship of the Party hereto is that of independent contractors. The Party hereto are not deemed to be an agent, partner or joint venturer of the others for any purpose as a result of this Agreement or the transactions contemplated thereby. The City shall provide IRS Form 1099 to the Contractor, if applicable.

Section 7. Entire Agreement.

This Agreement sets forth the entire agreement and understanding between the Party as to the subject matter hereof, and merges and supersedes all prior discussions, agreements, and understanding of any and every nature between.

Section 8. Counterparts and Electronic Signatures.

This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed to be an original copy of this Agreement, and all of which, when taken together, will be deemed to constitute one and the same agreement. The electronic signatures of the

Party shall be deemed to constitute original signatures, and facsimile or electronic copies hereof shall be deemed to constitute duplicate originals.

(Signatures Appear Below)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Party hereto, through their duly authorized representatives, have caused this Agreement to be executed as of the day and year first written above. The party has read and understand the foregoing terms of this Agreement and do, by their respective signatures hereby agree to its terms.

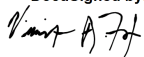
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

CITY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

Vivica A. Fox

Shay Davis

Shay Davis, Director of Community Outreach

DocuSigned by:

A4D3FE693E614FB...

Signature

Signed by:

793EA2D6C3D1446

Signature

2/18/2025

Date

2/18/2025

Date

From: [Shay Davis](#)
To: [Amy Roush](#)
Subject: Fw: Invoice
Date: Friday, February 21, 2025 9:46:31 AM
Attachments: [Invoice 3.pages](#)

Hi Amy ,

Please see the attached invoice for the hairstylist for Vivica Fox.

Best,
Shay

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Yvette Wade <promisehairstudio@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 6:07:03 AM
To: Shay Davis <sdavis@southbendin.gov>
Subject: Invoice

Hello Shay,

Below is the invoice you requested. Please let me know if there's anything else you need.

Sincerely,

Yvette Wade

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Bend's network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. Please report any suspicious emails to the CyberSecurity team by clicking the Phish Alert Button in Outlook.

YVETTE WADE

THE PROMISE HAIR STUDIO

INVOICE

574-329-2003

promisehairstudio@gmail.com937 N. Bendix Drive
South Bend, IN 46628

Attention: Shay Davis

City of South Bend

Date: 2/19/25

Project Title: Celebrating Black History

Invoice Number: 021925

Terms: February 19, 2025 and February 20, 2025

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
2/19/25 Hairstyling for Vivica Fox at Four Winds Casino and Hotel	1	\$150.00	\$150.00
Travel Fee	1	\$50.00	\$50.00
2/20/25 Hairstyling for Vivica Fox at Four Winds Casino and Hotel	1	\$150.00	\$150.00
Travel Fee	1	\$50.00	\$50.00
		Subtotal	\$400.00
	Tax	0.00%	\$0.00
		Total	\$400.00

Thank you for the opportunity to do business with you. It was my pleasure.

Sincerely yours,

Yvette Wade

From: [Shay Davis](#)
To: [Amy Roush](#)
Subject: FW: Invoice
Date: Friday, February 14, 2025 7:37:00 AM
Attachments: [VPA Foundation W9.pdf](#)
[VPA Invoice.pdf](#)

Hi Amy,

I am re-sending this invoice for Maurice McGee Services LLC for his transportation services for Vivica Fox. I will need a cashier's check in the amount of \$1000.

Once processed please submit payment to me.

Thank you,
Shay

From: MAURICE MCGEE SERVICES <mauricemcgeeservices@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 12:25 AM
To: Shay Davis <sdavis@southbendin.gov>
Subject: Invoice

Hello Shalon,

Please find attached the Invoice for your upcoming event and a completed W-9 Form (in case you need it).

Thank you for choosing my service,

Maurice McGee
Maurice McGee Services, LLC
24340 County Road 16
Elkhart, Indiana 46516
(574) 532-0483 Mobile
(574) 966-1324 Fax

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The materials in this electronic mail transmission (including all attachments) are private and confidential and are the property of the sender. The information contained in the material is privileged and is intended only for the use of the named addressee(s). If you are not the intended addressee, be advised that any unauthorized disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this material is strictly prohibited. If you have received this electronic mail transmission in error, please immediately notify the sender by sending an electronic message to mauricemcgeeservices@yahoo.com, and, thereafter, destroy it immediately.

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MAURICE MCGEE SERVICES, LLC

AIRPORT & EVENT SHUTTLE SERVICE

24340 County Road 16

Elkhart, Indiana 46516

mauricemcgeeservices@yahoo.com

[Tel] 574.532.0483 [Fax] 574.807.9866

Bill To

VPA Foundation
301 South St. Louis Boulevard
South Bend, Indiana, 46617

Invoice

Number

5392

Date

2/12/2025

Acceptable Payments:



Customer ID

VPAFOUNDATION

Terms

DUE IMMEDIATELT

Project

Date	Quantity	Description	Rate	Amount
02/12/2025	1	Professional Service: Executive Transportation- MAYOR'S OFFICE EVENT, Private Transport ORD Airport Chicago to South Bend, IN 02/19/2025, Special Guests	\$350.00	\$350.00
02/12/2025	1.00	Professional Service: Executive Transportation- MAYOR'S OFFICE EVENT, Private Transport Guests to and from Venue, Wait-time 02/20/2025, Special Guests	\$300.00	\$300.00
02/12/2025	1	Professional Service: Executive Transportation- MAYOR'S OFFICE EVENT Private Transport, South Bend, IN to ORD Airport Chicago 02/21/2025, Special Guests	\$350.00	\$350.00

Sub Total

\$1,000.00

Total

\$1,000.00

Amount Paid

\$0.00

Amount Due

\$1,000.00

***Thank You For Your
Business! LIKE us on Facebook!***

From: [Shay Davis](#)
To: [Amy Roush](#)
Subject: FW: Your bill from Four Winds Casino South Bend for your stay on 02/19/2025
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 9:05:00 AM
Attachments: [VIP reception edgewater bar bill.pdf](#)
[Credit Card Authorization Form.pdf](#)

Hi Amy,

Please see the attached invoice for the alcoholic drinks at the ViP reception with Vivica.

Thank you,
Shay

-----Original Message-----

From: Timothy Adams <timadams@fourwindscasino.com>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 3:45 PM
To: Shay Davis <sdavis@southbendin.gov>
Subject: FW: Your bill from Four Winds Casino South Bend for your stay on 02/19/2025

Shay,

I hope all went well yesterday at the ceremony .

I have attached the bar bill from the reception hosted in Edgewater on Wednesday evening.

Also, a credit card authorization form if you intend to settle the billing that way Hope you have a relaxing weekend !

Timothy Adams
Director of Sales & Catering
Four Winds South Bend
3000 Prairie Avenue
South Bend, IN 46614
Timadams@fourwindscasino.com
Work- 269-926-5216
Cell - 269-405-7605

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VIP reception

Confirmation Number: 8199200

Room Number:

Room Type:

No. of Guests:

TAX ID	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE	RATE PLAN	ACCOUNT
	02/19/2025	02/19/2025		649993

DATE	CODE	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT	AMOUNT (USD)
02/19/2025	40UEB	SB CASH EDGEWATER-BEVERAGE FROM INFOGENESIS		316.00
02/19/2025	40UEF	SB CASH EDGEWATER-FOOD FROM INFOGENESIS		30.00
02/19/2025	40FBX	SB F&B SALES TAX FROM INFOGENESIS		24.22
02/19/2025	40UET	SB CASH EDGEWATER TIP FROM INFOGENESIS		69.20

Sub-Total: 415.20

Total Tax: 24.22

Total Payments: 0.00

Total Due: 439.42

SIGNATURE / _____

DATE / 02/21/2025 _____



Four Winds Casino Resort Credit Card Authorization Form

Company / Group Name: _____

Arrival Date: _____

Billing Street Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

I hereby authorize the following charges to be applied to the following credit card:

Check all that apply:

☐ Room & Tax

☐ Food & Beverage

☐ Banquet Charges

☐ Resort Services Fee

☐ Incidentals

☐ Other: See comments

Comments:

I hereby authorize the amount of \$_____ to be applied to the credit card as deposit to confirm reservation.

And also authorize the final balance be charged to this account at conclusion of event.

☐ Yes

☐ No

If NO – alternative method of settlement _____

☐ Visa

☐ MasterCard

☐ Amex

☐ Discover

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

CVV: _____

(Please communicate verbally to your Hotel sales contact)

Name on Card: _____

Phone Number: _____

Signature of Cardholder: _____

The above information is kept confidential and will be utilized only for billing and deposit purposes as noted above and as stipulated in Catering Confirmation or Four Winds Group Sales Agreement

From: [Beth S](#)
To: [Shay Davis](#)
Cc: [Amy Roush](#); [Jordan Gathers](#); [Brandon Prince \(brandon.prince@lakecitybank.com\)](mailto:brandon.prince@lakecitybank.com); [Kevin Poe](#)
Subject: Re: 10th Annual City of South Bend Black History Month Program and Reception | Vivica A. Fox Contract
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 10:58:58 AM
Attachments: [VPA-Foundation-logos-04.png](#)

Hi Shay,

Thank you for the signed contract for Vivica A. Fox. I greatly appreciate it!

I had noticed on the contract that Amy sent me on Monday morning that the dates and way of payment that were being issued and received had changed and would need to be updated prior to the signing of the contract. Which could cause a delay in you getting it to me. I forwarded your email to Brandon Prince and Kevin Poe, to keep them in the loop.

I'm happy to hear that it worked out, and that the VPA Foundation could be of assistance to you and to the Mayor to help bring Vivica A. Fox to South Bend. I appreciate you making great efforts to get donors to sponsor this event, on behalf of the VPA Foundation. I will touch base with you next week to get an itemized list of donors and the dollar amount each of them have committed to. After I have received it, I will follow up with Amy. All of which I will share with our Treasurer Brandon Prince.

I'm looking forward to tomorrow night's 10th Annual Black History Month Award Ceremony & Reception. I've enjoyed this event that you have put together in years past for the City of South Bend. You've always done a great job, and it's been well attended. Each time I have gone, my spirits have been lifted, and I have a greater hope for our community and the world in general.

Thank you for all that you do!

Bests,
Beth Sanford
Chairman



On Tue, Feb 18, 2025 at 6:09 PM Shay Davis <sdavis@southbendin.gov> wrote:

Hi Beth,

Per your request when I met you at 1st Source Bank on yesterday, please see the signed Contract for Vivica A. Fox.

I was unable to forward it to you on yesterday because I had to have her re-sign it for a second time since some of the dates and the way payment was being issued & received changed.

Thank you,

Shay

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Bend's network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. Please report any suspicious emails to the CyberSecurity team by clicking the Phish Alert Button in Outlook.

From: [Jordan Gathers](#)
To: [Beth S](#)
Cc: [Brandon Prince \(brandon.prince@lakecitybank.com\)](#); [Kevin Poe](#); [Amy Roush](#)
Subject: RE: Vivica A. Fox Banking Information
Date: Monday, February 17, 2025 11:23:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)
[image002.png](#)
Importance: High

Thanks, Amy, for providing the necessary information for transparency of shared documents.

Beth –

The requested items have been shared, allowing us to move forward with funding approval. I appreciate your support of the event and the collaboration to guarantee its success.

With this information in hand, I assume your approval will finalize the majority vote, eliminating any hesitancy and allowing us to proceed confidently. Please confirm so we can move forward in a timely manner.

Looking forward to making this happen.

Talk soon,

Jordan V. Gathers, MBA

Executive Director – South Bend Venues Parks & Arts

jgathers@southbendin.gov

p: 574-235-5818

w: sbvpa.org

From: Amy Roush <aroush@southbendin.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2025 10:54 AM
To: Beth S <basanford1@gmail.com>; Jordan Gathers <jgathers@southbendin.gov>
Cc: Brandon Prince (brandon.prince@lakecitybank.com) <brandon.prince@lakecitybank.com>; Kevin Poe <Kevin.Poe@lakecitybank.com>
Subject: Re: Vivica A. Fox Banking Information

Beth,

I'm not trying to withhold information. I'm trying to be a conduit to assist the Mayor's office. I have attached the copy of the contract that I received from Shay Davis. I don't have the final copy because I'm not the main point of contact. I don't feel comfortable putting in an email a complete list of donors affiliated with amounts that could be asked for through the APRA process. I'm more than happy to share the list I have of confirmed donors:

Senator David Niezgodski
Council Member Sheila Niezgodski

Matt and Janine Kahn
Holladay Properties
Gurley Leep
1st Source Bank
Indiana Trust
NDFCU
SBCSC
Four Winds Casino, South Bend
CDI Friendly
City Clerk's Office
Drug Free St. Joseph County
Goodwill Industries

I will apologize in advance that I am going off of the list that Shay shared with me Friday, so there could be additional donors from the list above that were added over the weekend. Those who have not already paid are aware of the timeliness of getting their funds to Shay to get to the VPA Foundation. All entities that asked for an invoice were given a March 15th date to have their monies to us.

I appreciate your assistance completing this process,

Amy Roush

Chief Development Officer

South Bend Venues Parks & Arts

301 S. St. Louis Blvd.

South Bend, IN 46617

Office: (574) 235-9372

Cell: (574)261-7552

Venues-Parks-&-Arts-sig



From: Beth S <basanford1@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2025 10:00 AM

To: Jordan Gathers <jgathers@southbendin.gov>

Cc: Amy Roush <aroush@southbendin.gov>; Brandon Prince (brandon.prince@lakecitybank.com)

<brandon.prince@lakecitybank.com>; Kevin Poe <Kevin.Poe@lakecitybank.com>

Subject: Re: Vivica A. Fox Banking Information

Jordan,

The City of South Bend's Annual Black History Month Awards Ceremony & Reception is an event that I look forward to every year. I have many friends and mentors who have been honored in years past, and ones, such as you Jordan, who are being honored in this year's award ceremony. This being its 10th anniversary, makes it more special and important that we work together to make this a successful event.

There are two documents that I have requested in multiple emails, but have not yet received, since the first email Amy sent to the VPA Foundation on Tuesday, February 11th, 2025, in her original "ask" for \$25,000.00 to pay Ms. Vivica A. Fox to come to South Bend.

- An electronic copy of the fully executed signed contract between Ms. Vivica A. Fox and the City of South Bend
- A document that has the itemized list of donors, which includes each of their pledged dollar amounts, their expected due dates, and an electronic copy of their invoices.

On Wednesday, February 12th, 2025, Amy sent a copy of the unsigned contract, which isn't legally binding, and doesn't give us any assurance. (Please see attached.)

I've had multiple conversations with my board members who are concerned that we have not been provided a copy of the fully executed signed contract between Ms. Vivica A. Fox and The City of South Bend. Without a binding legal contract, we don't have any assurance in case if for some unsaid reason, (i.e. weather, illness, etc.), Ms. Vivica A. Fox is not able to attend, we have no recourse in getting our money back.

I don't understand what the hold up is on your/the City's end to send those two necessary assurances to Brandon, Kevin and I. I had hoped to have those two necessary assurances last week so that I could approve this and move forward on this. To have the majority vote, we needed 7 Yes's, and we only had 6 Yes's. My Yes will give us a majority.

Again, I request that you send the following items to us this morning:

- An electronic copy of the fully executed signed contract between Ms. Vivica A. Fox and the City of South Bend
- A document that has the itemized list of donors, which includes each of their pledged dollar amounts, their expected due dates, and an electronic copy of their invoices.

I look forward to receiving this requested information, so that we may move forward to make

this happen by noon today.

Lastly, in anticipation that these requests will be met, in terms of the changes. The original agreed upon contract amount was for \$25,000.00, plus the recently added \$300.00 for transportation to and from the airport in California. Therefore, the cashiers check should be made in the amount of \$25,300.00, not \$26,300.00.

It is the VPA Foundations understanding that in addition to the \$25,000.00 appearance fee, and the \$300.00 airport transportation in California, the VPAF will be separately invoiced for the following:

- Shuttle service provided by McGhee Services in the amount of \$1,000.00
- 1st Class round trip tickets for (2) United Airlines in the amount of \$2,403.94
- Food for the Event, (Awards Ceremony & Reception)-Frankies BBQ & Linden Grill-\$4,000.00

All of which will be paid when the donations for this event come in, or reimbursed to the VPA Foundation once those donations are received. Please confirm.

I look forward to making this happen today. Please send the requested items in order to do that.

Thank you,

Beth Sanford

Chairman



Cell: 574.993.3766

On Sun, Feb 16, 2025 at 2:19 PM Jordan Gathers <jgathers@southbendin.gov> wrote:

Beth —

The necessary assurances regarding the City of South Bend's 10th annual Black History Month Awards Ceremony & Reception have been met. The decision to deliberately hold off on the wire transfer with questions that do not align with the bylaws is beyond inefficient and unproductive. All required information was included in the initial proposal, and the city officials reviewed and approved the contract with

Vivica A. Fox. As previously shared, the money will be paid back within a reasonable time, so there won't be any loss.

Shay Davis, a representative from the mayor's office, dedicated an hour on Friday evening to address the manager's concerns. This was necessary to prevent Ms. Fox from withdrawing from the agreement due to apprehensions about not receiving her reimbursement. As a result of the discussion, we are required to obtain a \$26,300.00 cashier's check instead of proceeding with a wire transfer. The check must be acquired by noon EST and placed in the possession of Shay Davis for her to send a photo to the manager as evidence of our commitment. Additionally, an extra \$300.00 is being allocated for Ms. Fox's transportation to and from the airport in California, serving as an additional demonstration of good faith.

I'm surprised by your questioning of the integrity of my staff and the Mayor's cabinet, given that this event has been ongoing for a decade. For evidence, please review the following links: [<https://southbendin.gov/initiative/blackhistorymonth/>] (<https://southbendin.gov/initiative/blackhistorymonth/>) and <https://centurycenter.org/mec-events/10th-annual-black-history-month-awards-ceremony-reception/>.

Regrettably, you encounter red flags in your perception, as Venues Parks & Arts consistently upholds high standards and fiscal responsibility. Even with potential indecisiveness and an abstained vote, half a dozen Foundation board members reached a majority decision.

It's important to proceed with the best approach as soon as possible to ensure the success of the upcoming awards ceremony. I'd humbly request that we expedite the requests and that the bankers verify if it can occur tomorrow. I believe the holiday does not impact this process, so I strongly encourage you to proceed with haste.

I am looking forward to a successful event on Thursday.

Talk soon,

Jordan V. Gathers, MBA

Executive Director — South Bend Venues Parks & Arts

jgathers@southbendin.gov

p: 574-235-5818

w: sbvpa.org

From: Beth S <basanford1@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 4:51 PM

To: Amy Roush <aroush@southbendin.gov>

Cc: Brandon Prince (brandon.prince@lakecitybank.com)

<brandon.prince@lakecitybank.com>; Kevin Poe <Kevin.Poe@lakecitybank.com>; Jordan Gathers <jgathers@southbendin.gov>

Subject: Re: Vivica A. Fox Banking Information

Amy-

We will not be sending the wire transfer today. I talked to 1st Source this afternoon, the wire cut off was at 3:30 P.M. today. Monday is President's Day, a Federal Holiday, and the Federal Reserve is closed. The earliest that Brandon & I can transfer the money is on Tuesday morning, February 18th.

As of now, we do not have the majority of the votes from the board to approve the \$25,000.00, (\$12,500.00 prior and \$12,500.00 on the day of arrival) fee to Vivica A Fox, or the additional \$7,403.94 for the related expenses.

As previously mentioned to you, before I voted favorably towards this, I needed additional information, such as a copy of the executed contract, verification that a city attorney has reviewed and approved the contract between Vivica A. Fox and the COSB, the name of Vivica A. Fox's Agent, and his contact information, an itemized list of donors, funds promised and expected date of receiving those funds into the foundation, in order for me to make an informed decision to say Yes without reserve. After multiple requests, you have not provided me with that information. You have given me vague answers, and no executed contract, which doesn't suffice. Had you given me the information that I requested, I probably would have voted yes, and I would have been able to make the transaction happen today.

In all honesty, by not being forthright, you are throwing too many red flags that are causing me to question the validity of this contract with Ms. Vivica A Fox. Once the money is wired, there is no turning back. If this is potential fraud, then we have no recourse, and it falls on Brandon and I, and not on you, Shay, Jordan or on the City of South Bend.

Therefore, until I receive this information from you, I will wait to vote. Hopefully, you will send me the information requested so that I may make an informed decision to vote favorably, and we can make this all work out. In which case, Brandon and I can meet at 1st Source and send a partial payment of \$12,500.00 first thing on Tuesday morning.

Sincerely,

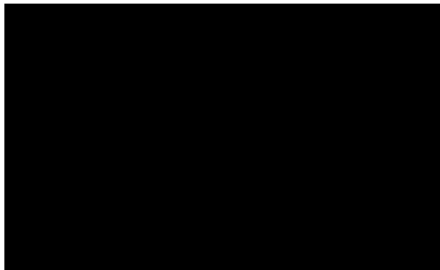
Beth Sanford
Chairman



On Fri, Feb 14, 2025 at 3:38 PM Amy Roush <aroush@southbendin.gov> wrote:

Brandon,

I wanted to share Vivica A. Fox banking information:



Let me know if you have any questions,

Amy Roush

Chief Development Officer

South Bend Venues Parks & Arts

[301 S. St. Louis Blvd.](#)

[South Bend, IN 46617](#)

[Office: \(574\) 235-9372](#)

Cell: (574)261-7552

Venues-Parks-&-Arts-sig



CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Bend's network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. Please report any suspicious emails to the CyberSecurity team by clicking the Phish Alert Button in Outlook.

From: [Shay Davis](#)
To: [DL-All City Staff](#); [DL-Clerk's Office](#); [DL-City Council](#); [DL-All City Department Heads](#)
Subject: You're Invited | City of South Bend | 10th Annual Black History Month Awards Ceremony and Reception | Come Join in on the Celebration!
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2025 9:29:25 AM
Attachments: [BHM Invite 2025.pdf](#)

Greetings,

Black History Month was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States.

Black History Month, is a month set aside to recognize, honor, and celebrate the achievements of African American men and women throughout history, especially here in South Bend!

In honor of Black History Month, the City of South Bend and the Black History Month Committee are honoring leaders who've made important contributions to South Bend's history and rich culture.

The honorees will be recognized on three digital billboards located at South Bend Avenue & Edison, South Bend Avenue & Ironwood Drive and South Michigan and Ireland. The billboards will be released beginning Monday February 17th, and will be displayed until Sunday, February 23rd (one week).

The leaders being honored this year are; Sy Barker, Reverend H. Gregory Haygood, Pastor Andre' A. McGhee, Tracy Miller, Iris & Warren Outlaw, Derrick Perry, Andre Waddell, Jordan Gathers (Leaders Under Forty Award Recipient for being one of the most influential young leaders in our community), Bernita A. Johnson (Obama Award Recipient for Extraordinary Volunteer Contributions in Community Service), Edward A. Myers (Trailblazer Award for establishing a legacy that will impact our community for generations to come and his dedicated years of Trailblazing leadership) and a Special Tribute to this year's Honorary Guest and South Bend Native, the Award Winning Actress, Vivica A. Fox.

To conclude, Mayor James Mueller will host an Awards Ceremony and Reception for this year's honorees on Thursday, Feb. 20 from 6 pm until 7:30 pm at the Century Center/Discovery Ballroom, 120 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. This year's Master of Ceremonies will be Raelynn Lee with WSBT and this event is **free and open to the public.**

Kindly RSVP by Monday, February 17 to rsvp@southbendin.gov, or by calling Shay Davis at 574.235.9291.

Please see the attached invitation highlighting this year's honorees.

-

You may also visit www.southbendin.gov/blackhistorymonth

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Thank you,
Shay Davis

Mayor James Mueller

**Invites you to the
10th Annual Black History Month
Awards Ceremony & Reception**

Honoring

Sy Barker

Reverend H. Gregory Haygood

Pastor Andre' McGhee

Tracy Miller

Iris & Warren Outlaw

Derrick Perry

Andre Waddell

Leaders Under 40 Award

Jordan V. Gathers

Obama Award

Bernita A. Johnson

Trailblazer Award

Edward A. Myers

Special Tribute

Vivica A. Fox

2 20 2025

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Century Center

120 S DR Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. South Bend, IN 46601

Kindly RSVP by Monday, February 17 to: rsvp@southbendin.gov