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Sorority president draws more scrutiny

County Bd. member wants audit for years she served in CFO post

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August 20, 2009

BY CHERYL V. JACKSON Staff Reporter

Cook County Commissioner Liz Gorman wants an outside audit of the years embattled sorority leader Barbara A. McKinzie served as chief financial officer of the Cook County Forest Preserve District – a move prompted by allegations McKinzie misappropriated millions of dollars in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority funds.

A former sorority staffer Tuesday said she was fired after alerting the Illinois attorney general's office to alleged financial abuses at the group's Chicago headquarters.

"In light of these allegations, I am very concerned of the possible misuse of funds during her tenure as chief financial officer at the Forest Preserve District," Gorman stated in a letter to County Board President Todd Stroger on Wednesday.

McKinzie was the district's CFO from 2001-2004 and also has served in financial management positions at the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, Neighborhood Housing Services Inc. and the Chicago Housing Authority.

When she was County Board President, Bobbie Steele, an AKA sorority sister, signed a \$12,000 consultant contract with McKinzie to help draft a budget and provide other financial advice. That budget never materialized.

Forest Preserve District spokesman Steve Mayberry said he had not seen the request.

Some AKA members in June filed a lawsuit against McKinzie, the sorority and its leaders, saying she used group funds for personal expenditures and funded pet projects without proper authorization. She also commissioned a wax statue of herself and arranged for a \$4,000 monthly stipend to be paid to her after she leaves the traditionally unpaid office. McKinzie's four-year term ends in 2010.

Criminal Girls with 20 Pearls – Barbara McKinzie AGAIN Goes on Email Offensive

From The Mo'Kelly Report

Barbara McKinzie, President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Sued by Eight Members for Mismanaging Funds, Including the Commissioning of a \$900K Wax Statue of Herself

From Black Political Thought

The views expressed in these blog posts are those of the author and not of the Chicago

Sun-Times.

s6xn9ne wrote:

It should be mandatory on these stories about McKinzie to always

include a photo of the walrus as I enjoy the creative descriptions of her.....

8/20/2009 12:50 PM CDT on suntimes.com

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gold6185 wrote:

This lady sounds like a stone cold thief-dressed in nice clothes.

8/20/2009 10:25 AM CDT on suntimes.com

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big dog wrote:

These are same type of people we vote for to be our elected officials.....corrupt democrats.

8/20/2009 9:17 AM CDT on suntimes.com

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puppy love wrote:

Shocker. She reminds me of that crooked president of Chicago State University a few years back.

8/20/2009 8:46 AM CDT on suntimes.com

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amazing grace wrote:

who cares about focus...someone wasn't watching thier own store PERIOD! this is what happens when you have NO ACCOUNTABILITY.....I hope this check into every job this stealing scumbag bitc* had. Lets see just how much money she managed to steal from the CITY and State!

8/20/2009 8:04 AM CDT on suntimes.com

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