



IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE!

July 2007

USAe-MAIL

USAE-Mail, a service of USAE weekly newspaper, The Weekly Community Newspaper of associations, CVBs and Hotels (www.usaenews.com) has reported the following improprieties since April 2007. Executives behaving badly affect us as we do our jobs conscientiously. See how creative some people can be.

April 5, 2007 — *Director of Austin Convention Center Fired . . .* Robert Hodge, Director of Austin Convention Center, has been fired. According to city officials, Hodge manipulated customer surveys to improve the convention center's performance results. As a result, Hodge and other employees received annual bonuses for high customer satisfaction that may have been undeserved. Unknown, at presstime; will he have to return any of the monies.

April 19, 2007 — *Duffer Receives Plea for Theft of 1.6 Million From Palm Beach CVB . . .* Donna Duffer has received a plea offer from the State Attorney's Office after her arrest for stealing \$1.6 million from the Palm Beach County CVB. She has yet accepted the offer, which includes jail time. Her next court hearing is scheduled for May 7.

May 24, 2007 — *Micah S. Green leaves SIFMA Amid Allegations of Improper Loans . . .* Micah S. Green has resigned as the co-president and CEO of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA). It has been revealed that he gave loans to employees, some without knowledge of board members.

June 21, 2007 — *Fresno CVB signs agreement with board member; conflict-of-interest violations . . .* The Fresno CVB has signed a business agreement with a board member in violation of a conflict-of-interest policy. It allows board member Gordon Webster to publish the agency's new visitor guide and keep the ad revenue. CVB policy says board members and employees can't benefit financially from doing business with the CVB without first

receiving board approval, which wasn't obtained in this case.

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