

INFORMATION ABOUT COMPLAINT FILER

George Greenfield

24715 Yellowstone Trail

Shorewood, MN 55331

33greenie@gmail.com

(952) 474-0156

IDENTIFY PERSON YOU ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT

Jennifer Labadie

5755 Country Club Road

Shorewood, Mn 55331

Mayor, City of Shorewood

GIVE THE STATUTORY CITE TO THE SECTION OF CHAPTER 10A,
CHAPTER 211B, OF THE MINNESOTA RULES YOU BELIEVE HAVE
BEEN VIOLATED:

Minnesota Statute 10A.071

George Greenfield

September 10, 2025

FILED
SEP 12 2025
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
JULIA M. HARRIS

NATURE OF COMPLAINT

The basis for this complaint is Minnesota Statute 10A.071 which is headed Certain Gifts by Lobbyists and Principals Forbidden. It reads, "A lobbyist or principal may not give a gift or request another to give a gift to an official. An official may not accept a gift from a lobbyist or principal." The gist of the matter is this: Sometime prior to August 25th, 2025, The Minnesota Transportation Alliance gave a gift (they used the term "scholarship") of \$1800 to Jennifer Labadie, mayor of Shorewood, to attend an Alliance-organized "Fly-In" in Washington, D.C. One of the purposes of the fly-in was to lobby for funds for a proposed re-design project for State Highway 7. The Minnesota Transportation Alliance is a consortium of registered lobbyists. Mayor Labadie is an elected official.

The details of the matter are as follows: Sometime prior to August 25, 2025, Labadie announced that she had been invited by the mayor of Minnetonka to attend the "Fly-In". She asked the city to pay her expenses. Two members of the city council questioned the utility of the trip and the expenses involved. There appeared to be some doubt that the council would approve Labadie's request. At the August 25 council meeting it was announced by Labadie and the city administrator that she had been awarded a "scholarship" (MTA's term) to cover the cost of the trip. She herself referred to it as a "gift". At that meeting, it was not said publicly who was providing the "scholarship". It required an inquiry to the city later that week to gain that information. It is worth noticing the sudden and mysterious appearance of the gift after doubts were raised about the city paying for the trip.

Then, at the September 8 council meeting, the city council approved by a 3-2 vote (which included Labadie as a voter) the acceptance of the money. In the discussion prior to the vote, Labadie asked the city attorney if he saw any problems with the matter. He replied that since the MTA has as "sponsors" (MTA's term for those who provide it money) various Minnesota cities, it would be permissible to accept the money. Nowhere that I see in 10A.071 does it indicate that who is paying the lobbying company in any way affects the restrictions stated in that statute.

The following auxiliary information may make it clear why the citizens of Shorewood are concerned about this matter. The primary funder of the MTA, its sole "Platinum Level" player, is the engineering company Bolton and Menk. Bolton and Menk happens to be the company employed by Shorewood to provide engineering services. A Bolton and Menk employee is Shorewood's city engineer. There has been a growing discontent among Shorewood citizens about both the amount of money Bolton and Menk charge for their services and the quality of their work. Bolton and Menk, of course, are employed by the city at the pleasure of the city council. The mayor (any mayor) is the most important member of the council.

It is not at all an unreasonable surmise that Bolton and Menk, via the money they provide MTA, was attempting to influence the mayor. MTA money is commingled money, a significant part of which is Bolton and Menk money.

Regardless, however, of the situation surrounding the matter, the illegality of MTA giving Labadie \$1800 seems clear. As I said at the beginning: MTA is a lobbyist; Labadie is a public official; MTA gave Labadie \$1800 and ~~he~~ she accepted it.

George Greenfield