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Official: Bar man from state business

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The state's inspector general suggested Tuesday that state officials consider barring a communications company executive from doing business with the state.

State Inspector General Stephen Street based the recommendation on inflated invoices and false expenditures that Randy Hayden allegedly submitted to the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission in 2006 through 2008.

In a written response, Hayden, president of Creative Communications and executive director of a private propane gas industry trade association, said money will be reimbursed to the state.

"We acknowledge mistakes were made but vehemently disagree with any inference that the mistakes were knowingly false or fraudulently made," Hayden wrote.

He said re-creating expenses well after events led to mistakes. He said mistakes are not the same thing as fraud.

The Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission oversees the storage, sale, transportation and use of liquefied petroleum gases. Hayden's firm was hired in 2005 to help with a market development fund, including putting together safety seminars that were part of conventions.

The inspector general's report looked at \$32,000 in invoices that were submitted by Hayden to the commission for expenses associated with the safety seminars.

The report alleges that:

- Expenses were submitted for speaker fees even though



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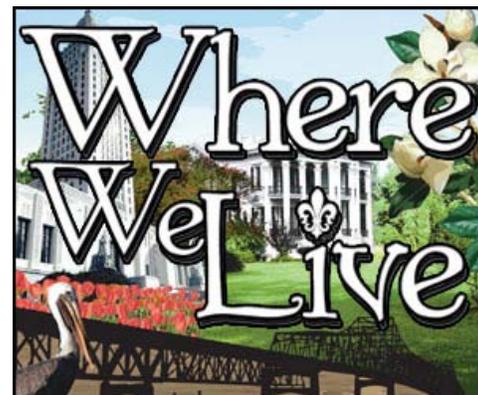
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- speakers did not receive payment for the seminars.
- To support his request for payment, Hayden submitted time sheets from employees who did not work on the safety seminar during the year in question, who no longer worked for him or who lived outside Louisiana during the billing cycle.
- “Due to Mr. Hayden’s apparent lack of good faith in submitting invoices with inflated and provably false expenditures for safety seminars ... the state’s chief procurement officers should evaluate and consider whether it is appropriate to initiate debarment and/or suspension proceedings for Mr. Hayden and Creative Communications,” the report concluded.

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