

## Braleley Blasts Wasteful Spending at Center of GSA Scandal

Written by Jeff Giertz  
Tuesday, 17 April 2012 13:46

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House panel investigates \$800,000 Las Vegas conference

Washington, DC – Rep. Bruce Braley (IA-01) today strongly criticized the US General Services Administration (GSA) for allowing the wasteful spending of taxpayer dollars in connection with a conference held at a luxury Las Vegas casino in 2010. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a hearing this afternoon to investigate the scandal. Braley is a member of the committee.

In 2007, Braley led questioning of another GSA employee accused of wrongdoing who was called to testify before Congress. GSA Administrator Lurita Doan was [ultimately forced to resign](#) for improperly holding political briefings on federal property.

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“The GSA won’t need a mind reader to know my feelings about their weekend in Vegas: it was an utter and complete waste of taxpayer dollars,” Braley said. “It’s unconscionable that while taxpayers are struggling through a recession, a federal agency is wasting their money on fancy catered meals and luxury hotels in Las Vegas. Something’s got to change – and every person responsible for this outrageous behavior needs to be held fully accountable.”

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the GSA Inspector General [issued a report](#) highlighting “excessive, wasteful, and...impermissible” spending in connection with a regional conference held at the M Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada, in 2010. The report found that costs for the conference exceeded \$800,000, including \$75,000 paid for a bicycle-building project, excessive spending (\$146,000) on meals, and over \$136,000 in planning costs for the conference, including hotel stays at the Ritz Carlton Las Vegas.

The report prompted GSA Administrator Martha Johnson to resign.

[Other improper spending](#) at the conference included a clown, a mind reader, and a comedian.

The GSA Inspector General has asked the Department of Justice to consider criminal charges

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against GSA employee and event organizer Jeffrey E. Neely. Neely was subpoenaed to testify before the Oversight Committee today.

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