



NEWS RELEASE

November 14, 2018
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**Former Brighton Chamber of Commerce President Sentenced to
10 Years Probation in \$112,000 Embezzlement Case**

Holly Lynn Hansen, former president of the Greater Brighton Chamber of Commerce, was sentenced Wednesday to 10 years of economic crime probation and ordered to pay more than \$112,000 plus interest in restitution for money she stole from the Chamber and City of Brighton during her employment.

Adams County Chief Judge Patrick Murphy also sentenced Hansen (DOB 08/25/73) to 90 days of home detention, 100 hours of community service and ordered her to write letters of apology to the Chamber of Commerce and City of Brighton. She also must disclose her felony conviction to any future employers and is barred from any job in which she works with money.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Robyn Cafasso asked for a jail sentence with work release as a condition of probation, noting that while the emphasis today is on restitution, in the past defendants convicted of stealing more than \$100,000 would be sentenced to 8 to 10 years in prison.

Cafasso asked for a lengthy 10-year probation sentence because Hansen has yet to pay a penny of restitution to the victims although, when her embezzlement was discovered in December 2016, she claimed she would immediately put \$100,000 in an escrow account to repay the money she had stolen. She also promised to pay the restitution when she pleaded guilty in September to felony forgery.

"This has been going on for two years with the expectation of payment of restitution that has never happened," Cafasso said. "The carrot of money from the family home has been dangled throughout this case," Cafasso said, but in August sole ownership of the family home was transferred to Hansen's husband as part of their divorce agreement.

The judge said he hoped that this had not been done to avoid paying restitution and ordered that Holly Hansen's share of money from the proceeds of the sale of the home must be used to repay restitution.

Hansen was charged with 76 counts of theft, forgery and unauthorized use of a financial instrument to fraudulently obtain \$112,000 from the City of Brighton's Lodging Tax Grant Program

during a three-year period from January 8, 2014 to December 23, 2016 in her position as president of the Greater Brighton Chamber of Commerce. The money was used for travel, expensive cheerleading competitions, entertainment and various household expenses. The charges came after an extensive investigation by the Brighton Police Department in conjunction with the Economic Crime Unit of the District Attorney's Office.

Six officers and members of the Brighton Chamber of Commerce told the judge that Hansen lied to them repeatedly, abused their trust and nearly bankrupted the non-profit which is still struggling to recover its funds and reputation. She began stealing money about a month after she was hired, they said.

Amanda Griffin, a board member and business owner, said Hansen used her company's name to submit \$20,000 in phony invoices to the City of Brighton which were paid by the city and its taxpayers. She called Hansen's actions "despicable".

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