



ST. CLOUD MUNICIPAL BAND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY¹

1. Purpose

The Board of Directors of the St. Cloud Municipal Band recognizes that board members, officers, and employees (“Personnel”) of St. Cloud Municipal Band may be required to travel or incur other expenses from time to time to conduct organizational business and to further the mission of this non-profit organization. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that (a) adequate cost controls are in place, (b) travel and other expenditures are appropriate, and (c) to provide a uniform and consistent approach for the timely reimbursement of authorized expenses incurred by Personnel. It is the policy of St. Cloud Municipal Band to reimburse only reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred by Personnel. When incurring business expenses, St. Cloud Municipal Band expects Personnel to:

- Exercise discretion and good business judgment with respect to those expenses.
- Be cost conscious and spend St. Cloud Municipal Band’s money as carefully and judiciously as the individual would spend his or her own funds.
- Report expenses, supported by required documentation, as they were actually spent.

2. Expense Report

Expenses will not be reimbursed unless the individual requesting reimbursement submits a written Expense Report. The Expense Report, which shall be submitted at least monthly or within two weeks of the completion of travel, if travel expense reimbursement is requested, must include:

- The individual’s name.
- If reimbursement for travel is requested, the date, origin, destination and purpose of the trip, including a description of each St. Cloud Municipal Band -related activity during the trip.
- The name and affiliation of all people for whom expenses are claimed (i.e., people on whom money is spent in order to conduct St. Cloud Municipal Band’s business).
- An itemized list of all expenses for which reimbursement is requested.

3. Receipts

Receipts are required for all expenditures billed directly to St. Cloud Municipal Band such as airfare and hotel charges. No expense in excess of \$25.00 will be reimbursed to Personnel unless the individual requesting reimbursement submits with the Expense Report written receipts from each

¹ Based on template provided by Charities Review Council. Document accepted by SCMB on 13 April 2015. The donor privacy policy can be found on the website: www.scmunicipalband.org, under the BOARD tab.

vendor (not a credit card receipt or statement) showing the vendor's name, a description of the services provided (if not otherwise obvious), the date, and the total expenses, including tips (if applicable).

4. General Travel Requirements

- A. Advance Approval.** All trips involving air travel or at least one overnight stay must be approved in advance by the individual's supervisor; however, any out-of-state travel must be approved by St. Cloud Municipal Band's Chairperson of the Board or his/her designee.
- B. Necessity of Travel.** In determining the reasonableness and necessity of travel expenses, Personnel and the person authorizing the travel shall consider the ways in which St. Cloud Municipal Band will benefit from the travel and weigh those benefits against the anticipated costs of the travel. The same considerations shall be taken into account in deciding whether a particular individual's presence on a trip is necessary. In determining whether the benefits to St. Cloud Municipal Band outweigh the costs, less expensive alternatives, such as participation by telephone or video conferencing, or the availability of local programs or training opportunities, shall be considered.
- C. Personal and Spousal Travel Expenses.** Individuals traveling on behalf of St. Cloud Municipal Band may incorporate personal travel or business with their St. Cloud Municipal Band -related trips; however, Personnel shall not arrange St. Cloud Municipal Band travel at a time that is less advantageous to St. Cloud Municipal Band or involving greater expense to St. Cloud Municipal Band in order to accommodate personal travel plans. Any additional expenses incurred as a result of personal travel, including but not limited to extra hotel nights, additional stopovers, meals or transportation, are the sole responsibility of the individual and will not be reimbursed by St. Cloud Municipal Band. Expenses associated with travel of an individual's spouse, family or friends will not be reimbursed by St. Cloud Municipal Band.

5. Air Travel

- A. General.** Air travel reservations should be made as far in advance as possible in order to take advantage of reduced fares. St. Cloud Municipal Band will reimburse or pay only the cost of the lowest coach class fare actually available for direct, non-stop flights from the airport nearest the individual's home or office to the airport nearest the destination.
- B. Saturday Stays.** Personnel traveling on behalf of St. Cloud Municipal Band are not required to stay over Saturday nights in order to reduce the price of an airline ticket. An individual who chooses to stay over a Saturday night shall be reimbursed for reasonable lodging and meal expenses incurred over the weekend to the extent the expenses incurred do not exceed the difference between the price of the Saturday night stay ticket and the price of the lowest price available ticket that would not include a Saturday night stay. To receive reimbursement for such lodging and meal expenses, the individual must supply, along with the Expense Report, documentation of the amount of the difference between the price of the Saturday stay and non-Saturday stay airline tickets.

- C. *Frequent Flyer Miles and Compensation for Denied Boarding.*** Personnel traveling on behalf of St. Cloud Municipal Band may accept and retain frequent flyer miles and compensation for denied boarding for their personal use. Individuals may not deliberately patronize a single airline to accumulate frequent flyer miles if less expensive comparable tickets are available on another airline.

6. *Lodging*

Personnel traveling on behalf of St. Cloud Municipal Band may be reimbursed at the single room rate for the reasonable cost of hotel accommodations. Convenience, the cost of staying in the city in which the hotel is located, and proximity to other venues on the individual's itinerary shall be considered in determining reasonableness. Personnel shall make use of available corporate and discount rates for hotels. "Deluxe" or "luxury" hotel rates will not be reimbursed.

7. *Out-Of-Town Meals*

Personnel traveling on behalf of St. Cloud Municipal Band are reimbursed for the reasonable and actual cost of meals (including tips) subject to a maximum per diem meal allowance of \$60 per day and the terms and conditions established by St. Cloud Municipal Band relating to the per diem meal allowance. In addition, reasonable and necessary gratuities that are not covered under meals may be reimbursed.

8. *Ground Transportation*

Employees are expected to use the most economical ground transportation appropriate under the circumstances and should generally use the following, in this order of desirability:

- **Courtesy Cars:** Many hotels have courtesy cars, which will take you to and from the airport at no charge. The hotel will generally have a well-marked courtesy phone at the airport if this service is available. Employees should take advantage of this free service whenever possible.
- **Airport Shuttle or Bus:** Airport shuttles or buses generally travel to and from all major hotels for a small fee. At major airports such services are as quick as a taxi and considerably less expensive. Airport shuttle or bus services are generally located near the airport's baggage claim area.
- **Taxis:** When courtesy cars and airport shuttles are not available, a taxi is often the next most economical and convenient form of transportation when the trip is for a limited time and minimal mileage is involved. A taxi may also be the most economical mode of transportation between an individual's home and the airport.
- **Rental Cars:** Car rentals are expensive so other forms of transportation should be considered when practical. Employees will be allowed to rent a car while out of town provided that advance approval has been given by the individual's supervisor and that the cost is less than alternative methods of transportation.

9. *Personal Cars*

Personnel are compensated for use of their personal cars when used for St. Cloud Municipal Band business. When individuals use their personal car for such travel, including travel to and from the

airport, mileage will be allowed at the currently approved IRS rate per mile. In the case of individuals using their personal cars to take a trip that would normally be made by air, e.g., Minneapolis to Milwaukee, mileage will be allowed at the currently approved rate; however, the total mileage reimbursement will not exceed the sum of the lowest available round trip coach airfare.

10. *Parking/Tolls*

Parking and toll expenses, including charges for hotel parking, incurred by Personnel traveling on St. Cloud Municipal Band business will be reimbursed. The costs of parking tickets, fines, car washes, valet service, etc., are the responsibility of the employee and will not be reimbursed. On-airport parking is permitted for short business trips. For extended trips, Personnel should use off-airport facilities.

11. *Entertainment and Business Meetings*

Reasonable expenses incurred for business meetings or other types of business-related entertainment will be reimbursed only if the expenditures are approved in advance by [designated officer or director] of St. Cloud Municipal Band and qualify as tax deductible expenses. Detailed documentation for any such expense must be provided, including:

- date and place of entertainment.
- nature of expense.
- names, titles and corporate affiliation of those entertained.
- a complete description of the business purpose for the activity including the specific business matter discussed.
- vendor receipts (not credit card receipts or statements) showing the vendor's name, a description of the services provided, the date, and the total expenses, including tips (if applicable).

12. *Non-Reimbursable Expenditures*

St. Cloud Municipal Band maintains a strict policy that expenses in any category that could be perceived as lavish or excessive will not be reimbursed, as such expenses are inappropriate for reimbursement by a nonprofit, charitable organization. Expenses that are not reimbursable include, but are not limited to:

- Travel insurance.
- First class tickets or upgrades.
- When lodging accommodations have been arranged by St. Cloud Municipal Band and the individual elects to stay elsewhere, reimbursement is made at the amount no higher than the rate negotiated by St. Cloud Municipal Band. Reimbursement shall not be made for transportation between the alternate lodging and the meeting site.
- Limousine travel.
- Movies, liquor or bar costs.

- Membership dues at any country club, private club, athletic club, golf club, tennis club or similar recreational organization.
- Participation in or attendance at golf, tennis or sporting events, without the advance approval of the chairperson of the board or his designee.
- Purchase of golf clubs or any other sporting equipment.
- Spa or exercise charges.
- Clothing purchases.
- Business conferences and entertainment which are not approved by a [designated officer or director] of the St. Cloud Municipal Band.
- Valet service.
- Car washes.
- Toiletry articles.
- Expenses for spouses, friends or relatives. If a spouse, friend or relative accompanies Personnel on a trip, it is the responsibility of the Personnel to determine any added cost for double occupancy and related expenses and to make the appropriate adjustment in the reimbursement request.
- Overnight retreats without the prior approval of the chairperson of the board or his/her designee.

13. REVIEW OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years and recommendations for amendments will be approved by the board.