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San Francisco Chronicle

AC Transit Director Facing 7 Charges; [FINAL Edition]

[Marc Sandalow, Chronicle East Bay Bureau.](#) [San Francisco Chronicle \(pre-1997 Fulltext\)](#). San Francisco, Calif.: [Mar 17, 1988](#). pg. A.2

Abstract (Summary)

Ending months of speculation, the Alameda County district attorney's office charged **AC Transit** director Linda Shepard yesterday with seven felony counts of misusing public funds.

Investigations into the transit district, which provides 230,000 rides each day, have been sharply critical not only of Shepard but of the entire agency and have suggested that criminal behavior might not be confined to Shepard.

The charges against Shepard are the most severe against an East Bay politician in years and the first ever against an **AC Transit** director.

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Full Text (547 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Mar 17, 1988

Ending months of speculation, the Alameda County district attorney's office charged **AC Transit** director Linda Shepard yesterday with seven felony counts of misusing public funds.

The charges involve allegations that the 42-year-old director used a district credit card to purchase more than \$9,000 in personal expenses, was paid for a business meeting in St. Louis that never occurred and improperly contributed district funds to two political candidates.

Shepard, who has represented southern Alameda County on the transit board since 1982, could face more than seven years in prison if convicted on each offense.

In addition, a conviction would automatically result in her removal from office and prevent her from holding public office in the future.

A \$5,000 warrant was issued for her arrest yesterday, and her attorney, John Burris, said she would surrender to authorities Monday morning. The district attorney's office said she will be released on her own recognizance.

Shepard did not return phone calls yesterday but Burris said his client will not plead guilty to the charges and will not resign from the board.

"She will fight this," Burris said. "She will not resign."

A friend and former campaign chairman of Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson, Shepard has been struggling for political survival since news accounts last fall revealed incidents of lavish living on public transit district funds.

Investigations into the transit district, which provides 230,000 rides each day, have been sharply critical not only of Shepard but of the entire agency and have suggested that criminal behavior might not be confined to Shepard.

Yesterday, prosecutors said they did not anticipate any charges against anyone else

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connected with **AC Transit**.

The charges against Shepard are the most severe against an East Bay politician in years and the first ever against an **AC Transit** director.

Four of the felony counts focus on a trip that Shepard took to St. Louis last August, for which she billed the district about \$800. Officials in St. Louis said the meeting never occurred.

Alameda County prosecutor Tom Orloff characterized the trip yesterday as a "very personal trip to St. Louis for personal purposes."

Shepard, who is from St. Louis, has conceded that she never attended the meeting, but blamed it on a bad plane connection that could not be prevented.

Another count alleges that Shepard used a district credit card to charge \$9,000 in personal purchases, ranging from shoes and hats to appointments at beauty shops.

Shepard routinely reimbursed the district or the credit card company for the charges, although her payments were often tardy.

On several occasions, the public inadvertently picked up the tab when Shepard's business and personal expenditures became confused.

Such was the case when the district paid \$122.96 for a charge at [Banana Republic](#) and \$116.60 for a charge at Shop for Pappagallo on the same day. Both charges were recorded by a district secretary as business meetings.

After being informed of the mistakes, Shepard repaid the district.

The final two counts involve \$100 fund-raising luncheons, one for Richmond Mayor George Livingston in March 1986 and another for Assemblyman Elihu Harris, D-Oakland, in October 1986. Shepard used district funds to pay for both functions in violation of state codes prohibiting the use of public funds for political purposes.

The politicians have returned the money to the district.

Indexing (document details)

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