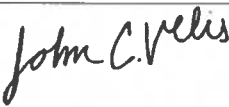


**DISCLOSURE BY ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
OF TRAVEL EXPENSES SERVING A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE
AS REQUIRED BY 930 CMR 5.08(2)(d)2.**

ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE INFORMATION	
Name of elected public employee:	John C. Velis
Title/ Position	Senator
Agency/ Department	Massachusetts Senate
Agency address:	State House 24 Beacon Street, Room 513 Boston, MA 02133
Office phone:	617-722-1415
Office e-mail:	John.velis@masenate.gov
Write an X to confirm each statement.	<p>I am filing this disclosure because:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am going to engage in an activity that serves a legitimate public purpose, i.e., it is intended to promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; and</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A non-public entity (but not a lobbyist) has offered to reimburse, waive or pay travel expenses and costs worth more than \$50.</p>
ACTIVITY THAT SERVES A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE	
Describe the activity which is the reason for traveling.	The American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) has invited me to participate in the AIEF Israel Seminar for National Democratic Leaders.
Describe your participation in the activity.	I will travel to Israel with other elected officials to meet with members of the Israeli Knesset and the Palestinian Authority and other political and cultural experts to discuss issues of importance to both Israel and the Commonwealth, including, but not limited to, community building, conflict resolution, immigration, public safety, behavioral health, veterans support, environment, technology, and human rights.
Date, time and location of activity.	July 23 – July 29, 2023 Israel
Please explain how the activity will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality.	As the Senate Chair of both the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs and Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, this trip will help inform future legislation and potential policy reforms in the Commonwealth. Israel has long been a leader in both trauma and evidence based behavioral health. From the National Health Insurance Law of 1994 to the 2015 Mental Health Care reform, Israel has enhanced access to psychiatric, psychological, and social work care for

	<p>residents. Additionally, Israel has led in suicide prevention efforts for active military personnel and veterans.</p> <p>The trip will also focus on topics such as recent peace agreements, security threats, the roots of antisemitism, and veterans and active military programs. The trip will strengthen the Commonwealth's partnership with Israel on a number of topics of importance to the Commonwealth and its residents, including, but not limited to, immigration challenges, technology, environment, tourism, and human rights.</p>
	TRAVEL EXPENSES
Identify the person or organization that offered to reimburse, waive or pay your travel expenses.	American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Address of person or organization.	251 H St. NW Washington, D.C. 20001
Provide information in as much detail as possible:	<i>Itemization and explanation of amounts offered:</i>
Transportation:	<i>Air, train, bus, and taxi fare and rental car hire, etc.</i> Roundtrip Airfare- \$1,267.74 Ground Transportation- \$636.05
Lodging:	<i>Overnight accommodations.</i> \$2,835.07
Meals:	<i>Breakfast, lunch, dinner, special events.</i> \$1,574.07
Admission:	<i>Registration, admission, tickets, etc.</i> Entrance Fees to the Davidson Center in the Old City and Masada - \$34.27
Other (please list):	<i>Refreshment, instruction, materials, entertainment, etc.</i> Security- \$1,483.38 Photography- \$37.34 Room Rental- \$226.41 Tips- \$7.48 Speaker Honorarium- \$945.37 Tour Guide- \$362.88
Total:	\$9,451.33
Write an X beside any relevant statement.	<p><input type="checkbox"/> I have attached the relevant itinerary.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have attached the relevant agenda.</p>
For the exemption to apply, check off both statements.	<p>Having disclosed the facts above, I determine that:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptance of the reimbursement, waiver or payment of travel expenses will serve a legitimate public purpose i.e., it will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; AND</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Such public purpose outweighs any special non-work related benefit to me or to the person providing the reimbursement, waiver or payment.</p>

Employee signature:	
Date:	7-12-2023

Attach additional pages if necessary.

Elected state or county employees – file with the State Ethics Commission.

Members of the General Court – file with the House or Senate clerk or the State Ethics Commission.

Elected municipal employee – file with the City Clerk or Town Clerk.

Elected regional school committee member – file with the clerk or secretary of the committee.

July 12, 2023

**National Democratic Leaders
EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR IN ISRAEL
July 23-29, 2023**

Israel Staff: Tova Serkin, Keren Aviv

U.S. Staff: Arielle Schwartz

Tour Guide: Yonatan Lipnick

No. of Participants: 12

Sunday, July 23, 2023

4:20 PM Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport- United #90
Transfer to Jerusalem
Check into the Inbal Hotel

Attire: Casual

7:30 PM Depart for dinner

7:45 PM- 9:15 PM **Welcome and Orientation Dinner**
• Arielle Schwartz, Political Coalitions and Operations Director
• Tova Serkin, Missions Director
-at Touro

9:15 PM- 9:45 PM **Welcome to Jerusalem: Overlook of the Old City**
-at Yemin Moshe Windmill

Overnight at the Inbal

Monday, July 24, 2023

Attire: Modest casual, bring business

7:30 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel

8:15 - 9:15 AM **Pulse of The Nation**
Matti Friedman+++
Journalist and author
-at hotel (Bistro Room)

9:30 AM Depart

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem - Part I: The Origins Stories**

- 10:00 – 11:00 City of David (Overlook, Palace, Pilgrimage)+++
- 11:15 – 11:30 Robinson's Arch

- 11:45 – 12:15 Kotel (photo)+++
- 12:15 – 1:00 Church of the Holy Sepulchre

1:00 PM **Lunch Like a Local (sitting upstairs, family style)**
 -at Golden Panoramic

1:45 PM Depart

2:15 PM **Introduction to Israeli Politics**
 Haviv Rettig Gur
 Senior Analyst and Political Correspondant
 The Times of Israel
 -at Nefesh B’Nefesh

3:30 PM Depart for Knesset, security

4:15 PM **Israeli Democracy in Action**
 Meetings with:
 The Honorable Boaz Bismuth, Member of Knesset, Likud Party+++
 The Honorable Shelly Meron, Member of Knesset, Yesh Atid Party
 / alt. Efrat Rayten
 - at the Knesset

5:30 PM Depart for Gilo

6:00 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem - Part II**
 Watershed Moments: 1948, 1967, 2000
 - at Gilo

6:45 PM Depart for Dinner

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM **An Israeli Culinary Experience**
 - at Tali’s Atelier*

Overnight at the Inbal
 PLEASE PREPARE FOR THE NEXT MORNING’S CHECKOUT

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

PLEASE BRING PASSPORTS

Checkout, luggage in the lobby

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 6:00 – 7:30 AM | Run Jerusalem: Optional Morning Run around the Old City |
| 7:30 AM | Breakfast on own
- at the hotel dining hall |
| 8:30 AM | Depart |
| 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM | The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society (Request for Lara)
Guided visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum+++ |
| 11:15 AM | Depart on Mahfouz bus
Lunchboxes |
| 12:45 PM | A View from the Palestinian Street
Meeting with Nidal Foqaha (not through Bashar)*
Director-General of the Palestinian Peace Coalition-Geneva Initiative
-at his office |
| 2:00 PM | Depart |
| 2:15 PM | A View from the Palestinian Authority
Meeting with Ziad Abu Amer
Deputy Prime Minister; Member of PLO Executive Committee
-at his office |
| 3:15 PM | Depart |
| 4:45 PM | Check into the Sheraton, break |
| 5:45 PM – 6:45 PM | Behind the Scenes of the Peace Process
Meeting with Ambassador Daniel Taub
-at the hotel |
| 6:45 PM | Depart for dinner |
| 7:15 PM- 8:45 PM | Dinner with Community Activists <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hen Mazzig
LGBT Activist• Ashager Araro
Ethiopian Israeli Immigrant Activist• Ibrahim Abu Ahmed
Arab-Israeli Activist |

-at Darya

8:45 PM

Dinner ends

Overnight at Sheraton Tel Aviv

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

7:30 AM

Breakfast on own

8:30 AM- 9:30 AM

Strategic Regional Overview

Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel

Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Prime Minister's Office

- at hotel

9:45 AM

Depart

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Life in the Gaza Periphery**

Conversation with Chen Abrahams

Resident of Kibbutz Kfar Aza

12:15 PM

Depart

12:30 – 12:45 PM

Visit to the Peace Wall

12:45 PM

Depart

1:15 PM

Lunch

Hummus Shel Techina, Sderot

1:15 PM

Missile Defense Cooperation: U.S.-Israel Strategic Cooperation

Visit Iron Dome battery

-at Gevim

2:00 PM

Depart for Tel Aviv

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Innovation Nation: The Future of Fresh Greens

Tasting and conversation with Tsipi Shoham (jars to take home)

Founder and CEO, GreenOnyx

-at Green Onyx Innovation Center and Kitchen

4:15 PM

Depart

5:15 PM

Return to hotel, break

6:30 PM- 7:30 PM

The Origins of Zionism: Why a Jewish State

Dr. Einat Wilf
Author and Former Member of Knesset

7:30 PM Depart (on bus)

7:45 PM-9:30 PM Dinner
Tikkun Olam: Israel's Contributions to Global Challenges

- [Yotam Polizer](#) (through Hanna)
IsraelAid
- Danielle Abraham
Volcani
- Sivan Yaari
CEO, Innovation Africa

-at Meat Kitchen

9:30 PM Depart

9:45 PM Depart Minibus

Overnight at Sheraton Tel Aviv

PLEASE PREPARE FOR THE NEXT MORNING'S CHECKOUT

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Checkout, luggage in the lobby

7:30 AM Breakfast

8:15 AM Depart

9:00 AM **Israel's Narrow Waistline: The Quest for Defensible Borders**
Strategic briefing overlooking Israel's central population center
- at Alfei Menashe overlook

Bathrooms Alfash Matnas

9:45 AM Depart

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM **The Challenges of a Shared Society**
Conversation and then lunch with:
Nadia Giol
Co-Manager Sindyanna of Galilee Association
-at [Sindyana](#), Kfar Kana

12:45 PM Depart

1:15 PM	Mt of Beatitudes
2:00 PM	Depart
	Bathrooms at Zarit
3:30 - 4:15 PM	Hezbollah Tunnel -at Zarit
4:15 – 5:00 PM	Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Hezbollah Next Door Strategic briefing with Lt. Col. (res.) Sarit Zehavi IDF Intelligence Officer, Northern Border -at Zarit
5:00 PM	Depart to Decks
6:15 PM-7:45 PM	Dinner -at Decks
7:45 PM	Depart
8:45 PM	Arrive at Merom Golan and check in
	Overnight at Merom Golan
	PLEASE PREPARE FOR NEXT MORNING'S DEPARTURE

Friday, July 28, 2023

	Checkout, luggage in the lobby
7:30 AM	Breakfast on own - at the hotel main restaurant
8:30 – 10:15 AM	Israel's Northern Border Concerns Part II: Syria and Iran Next Door Jeep tour and Strategic briefing with Cpt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman -at Merom Golan
10:15 AM	Depart
11:00 AM- 12:15 PM	Baptism Yardenit
12:15 PM	Depart
1:00 PM	Winery for lunch

2:45 PM	Depart
5:45 PM	Check into the Inbal Hotel
7:30 PM	Depart
7:45 PM- 9:45 PM	Home Hospitality: Reflections on the Sabbath Traditional Sabbath Eve dinner hosted by Susan Silverman and Yossi Abramowitz - at their home in Jerusalem
9:45 PM	Depart on minibus (from 21:30 –23:30)
	Overnight at the Inbal

Saturday, July 29, 2023

7:30 AM	Breakfast on own -at the hotel,
8:00 AM	Depart
10:00 AM	Masada? <u>Environmental Briefing?</u>
11:30 AM	Depart
12:30 PM	Exploration of the Dead Sea Region - at Dead Sea Hotel
1:00 PM	Lunch -at Herbert Samuel Hotel
2:00 PM	Depart for Jerusalem Optional Shopping Old City
4:00 PM	Return to hotel, prepare for departure - at hotel
5:30 PM	Depart for Dinner
6:30 PM-8:15 PM	Bringing it all Together: Closing Dinner - at Pizza Porto
8:15 PM	Depart for airport
8:30 PM	Meet VIP

11:25 PM

Departing Flights United #91