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## December 2021 Squeal Award: Washington's Holiday Grift List

There will likely be fewer gifts under many Christmas trees this year because a record number of Americans [aren't buying presents](#) as a result of rising prices and the shrinking value of the dollar. But these economic hardships haven't stopped binge buying bureaucrats from squandering the tax dollars of struggling Americans on their own wish lists.

**If folks can't afford to go shopping, why not spend *their* money encouraging them to do so anyway?** That's actually what happened in New Jersey, where thousands of [tote bags promoting holiday shopping](#) were purchased with a COVID-19 stimulus grant. Children of local politicians were paid to act as "ambassadors" and hand out the totes. Months later, the swag bags were discovered in a warehouse...in unopened boxes.

In Utah, those dreaming of a white Christmas had their wish come true with a flurry of COVID-19 cash. **Nearly a [half-a-million dollars of taxpayers' money](#) was blown to literally [make snow](#) and create an outdoor winter wonderland.** The spending blizzard didn't end there either as local commissioners directed dollars to family-owned [enterprises](#). An [audit](#) concluded "The large influx of federal pandemic relief money" and "a perceived disregard for federal grant

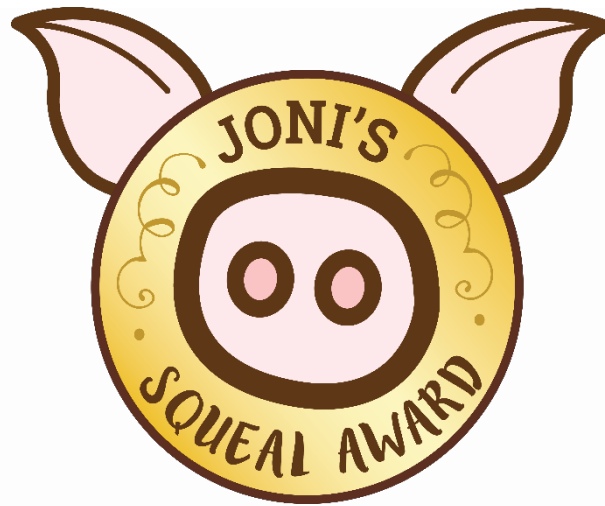
requirements resulted in these expenditures not complying with federal program requirements.” In the end, it was the struggling small business owners left out in the cold by being passed over for the federal financial relief who really got snowed!

**It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in [Connecticut](#), too,** thanks to holiday lights and decorations also paid for with COVID-19 funds, plus a 20 person [marching band](#), [gifts for bureaucrats](#), and pay outs to [companies owned by local politicians](#). The FBI has already made a [number](#) of [arrests](#) related to these expenditures and the Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General (OIG) is also investigating.



I have a message for those even thinking of taking advantage of the financial support provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for personal gift and graft: **“You better watch out! I’m telling you why. Your days of playing Santa with taxpayer dollars are over, so don’t even try!”**

There are too many struggling families and small business owners who are desperately trying to survive while untold amounts are being squandered because of inadequate guidance and oversight.



That is why I am awarding my December 2021 Squeal Award to the Department of Treasury for failing to properly police the projects being paid for with CARES Act cash.

It is also why I am supporting the FBI and OIG investigators who are making a list and checking it twice to make those who were naughty with taxpayer dollars pay a price.

**WASHINGTON'S HOLIDAY GRIFT LIST** 

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH SWAG BAGS IN NEW JERSEY</b>	 <b>73,000</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>WINTER WONDERLAND IN UTAH</b>	 <b>245,000</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, HOLIDAY DÉCOR, AND GIFTS AND GRAFT IN CONNECTICUT</b>	 <b>670,000</b>

Do you have an example of government waste or inefficiencies that I should take a look at? Send me an email by [clicking here](#).

Thank you!