

NORTH AUGUSTA

SOUTH CAROLINA'S RIVERFRONT

7-19 E-mail from Mayor
7-25 Forwarded to
C. Hayes to follow-up

FOIA 2019-44

Date: July 3, 2019

TO: [REDACTED]

Copy to:
Kelly Zier - City Attorney
Robert A. Pettit - Mayor
Todd Glover - City Administrator
Cammie Hayes - Director of Finance &
General Services

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

PLEASE BE ADVISED that the City of North Augusta has received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request the 2nd day of July 2019. Such request has been forwarded to the appropriate department for response. In addition, a copy of said request has been forwarded to the office of the City Attorney for his review.

The City Attorney will make a determination as to whether the request is a proper request under the FOIA act. The appropriate department will advise as to what materials, documents, etc. may be available. That department will also provide information indicating the approximate time involved related to the retrieval of the documentation, and also the amount of material that would need to be copied in order to comply with the request. At such time as a response is received from the City Attorney and the appropriate department, we will then notify you of the response of the City to your FOIA request. In the event that the request is deemed appropriate and permissible under the FOIA act, we will advise you of same and also provide an estimate of the costs that would be related to responding to said request. In the event that it is determined that the FOIA request is not proper and not permitted by the act, you'll also be advised of that decision.

A response to your request will be made within the time limits as established by section 20-4-30(c) of the FOIA act. Specifically, this requires that said response be provided within 10 business days for any record requested that is less than 24 months old. A request for a record that is more than 24 months old, is to be responded to within 20 business days from the date of the receipt of your request. The City would not normally require the full period in order to respond, but reserves its right under the act to do so.

In the event that the response to your request is positive and the costs associated with retrieving and providing the data is minimal, in most cases, the City would forward the documentation to you with a statement for the costs. An example of charges would be 15¢ per page for black and white copies, 20¢ per page for color copies. The City does not charge for search and retrieval for fifteen minutes or less. For any time required to research and retrieve the requested information more than 15 minutes, the City charges, a minimum of \$8.00 per 30 minutes. Pursuant to the act, the charge for searching, retrieving, and redacting records is not to exceed the hourly wage of the lowest paid employee on the public body staff, who has the skill and training to fulfill the request. Therefore, the charge could be in excess of the \$8.00 per 30 minutes, if a

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Date: 7-2-19

By: [Signature]

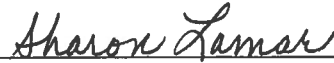
Repository: Admin Gen
FOIA 2019

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regular clerical person is unable to perform the services. The specific FOIA Fee schedule, as adopted by the City is available for review online. In the event that the costs are considered to be of more than a nominal amount, the City would reserve the right to require a deposit of 25% of anticipated costs to be made before assembling, copying and delivering the materials. This would also provide to you the opportunity to determine if you desired to proceed with the request in light of the costs.

NOTICE: SOUTH CAROLINA LAW PROVIDES THAT "IT IS A CRIME TO KNOWINGLY OBTAIN OR USE PERSONAL INFORMATION FROM A PUBLIC BODY FOR COMMERCIAL SOLICITATION."



Sharon Lamar, City Clerk

City of North Augusta, South Carolina

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 01, 2019 11:53 AM
To: Pettit, Robert <RPettit@northaugusta.net>
Subject: City Checks on City Website

Hi Bob (Mr. Mayor)

Thanks for starting to provide more transparency to the City's activities. I have attempted to get some meaningful information from the information provided and I am having some difficulty. First, it is very difficult to analyze any of the information provided without a tremendous amount of manual intervention (format of supplied information) and even doing that I am not able to see information required to come to any conclusion . You have provided check registers listed but no explanation provided on what these checks were issued for . Does the City have additional reports that you can share? As an example, there are checks written to specific vendors, Visa, GreenJackets, etc. for substantial amounts . Why were they paid and is the detail available?

I would like to generate reports on the City's spending activities and see how much we are spending with each vendor. Do you have such a report ? I would think this would be a report any City who is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars would have this information at their finger tips. Can you share that with me?

I would hope that you would think that I am not being unreasonable with my request. Please let me know if the information requested (suggested) is available.

Thanks in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
North Augusta, SC 29841
[REDACTED]