

NORTH AUGUSTA

SOUTH CAROLINA'S RIVERFRONT

FOIA 2020-06

Date: February 11, 2020

T0: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Copy to:
Kelly Zier - City Attorney
Cammie Hayes – Director of Finance and
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 10th day of February 2020. 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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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

Sharon Lamar, City Clerk

City of North Augusta, South Carolina

Lamar, Sharon

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2020 1:15 PM
To: Lamar, Sharon
Cc: Pettit, Robert; 4mcghee@comcast.net; pcarpenter06@yahoo.com; fletcher@allenbatchelor.com; orangepaw73@yahoo.com; erichpresnell@yahoo.com; ktoolenacc@gmail.com
Subject: FOIA Request- MID Calculations

Mrs. Sharon Lamar
City of North Augusta
100 Georgia Avenue
North Augusta, SC 29841

Dear Mrs. Lamar:

Under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 30-4-10, I am requesting to have sent to me electronic records and or statements containing the following information:

On Monday February 3,2020 at a City Council Meeting Mr. John Eargle made the following statement and request and I quote:

"It is my understanding that City taxes are due May 1,2020 based on information sent to all property owners with their 2019 tax bill. I, in fact recently received my City tax bill.

It appears that there will be a need for the MID tax allocation for Riverside Village to be implemented based on less development that was anticipated , and a shortage in required parking fees collected , just to name a few deficiencies.

Is there a procedure in place to calculate the MID, demonstrate how it will be allocated, and lastly when will this information be available for the public to see?

We are hoping that this effort was anticipated and that there won't have to be a long period to implement it."

In his comments to Mr Eargle, , the mayor and staff indicated that this information would be released on Wednesday February 5th, 2020. The mayor also indicated , and I was happy to hear, that there had been additional funds collected to meet this commitment from other sources. Can you identify these sources?

I am requesting the calculations used to meet this MID requirement, the procedure in place to calculate the MID, and a demonstration (procedure) on how it will be allocated to property owners in Riverside Village.

Lastly, when will this information be available for the public to see as I have not seen it as part of tax information displayed on the City website as of the issuance of this request by Mr. Eargle?

If there are any fees for searching or copying this information, please inform me if this cost will exceed \$25.00. However, I request a waiver of all fees in that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of finances for the City. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes.

Please submit to me the information requested in the time frame established by the FOIA. If you cannot supply any of the requested information, please cite the exemption from my request and notify me of the appeal procedure available to me under the law.

Sincerely yours,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.