

NORTH AUGUSTA

SOUTH CAROLINA'S RIVERFRONT

FOIA 2020-28

Date: June 24, 2020

TO: Lindsey Hodges
lhodges@aikenstandard.com

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Copy to:
Kelly Zier - City Attorney
Robert A. Pettit – Mayor
Rachelle Moody – Interim City Administrator

PLEASE BE ADVISED that the City of North Augusta has received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request the 24th day of June 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

NORTH AUGUSTA

SOUTH CAROLINA'S RIVERFRONT

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

Lamar, Sharon

From: Lindsey Hodges <lhodges@aikenstandard.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 10:55 AM
To: Lamar, Sharon
Subject: FOIA request

Hi Sharon, this is Lindsey with The Star. I wanted to see if I could request documents that are part of a FOIA request already made to the city that's posted online.

These are the records included in that previous request we would like to receive.

All emails on the city servers with keywords, "Glover", "Schoen", "Eiseman" and "Greenstone", for the period of time 11/01/19-06/24/20.

All emails on the city servers with the keyword "Southbound".

If any business was transacted by Mr. Pettit or the city administrator with Mr. Shoen or Mr. Eiseman from phones or servers not owned by the city, I would like those as well, for the dates specified.

All telephone logs to all known Greenstone Properties phone numbers from Mayor Pettit's paid cell phone and other City paid cell phones to the same five (5) keywords.

Since this request primarily benefits the general public, I request that any search or copying fees be waived. If there is a charge, please let me know the estimate and its basis.

Thanks so much for your help,

Lindsey Hodges | Reporter
lhodges@aikenstandard.com
Newsroom: 803-644-2367
Cell: 864-993-6281

Subscribe to the Aiken Standard using my link: <https://bit.ly/2yWP4yM>