

NORTH AUGUSTA

SOUTH CAROLINA'S RIVERFRONT

FOIA 2020-40

Date: September 8, 2020

TO:

Copy to:
Kelly Zier - City Attorney

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

PLEASE BE ADVISED that the City of North Augusta has received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request the 4th day of September 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:
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Lamar, Sharon
Cc: Pettit, Robert
Subject: FOIA Request- Medac Transaction

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 containing the following information highlighted in bold below:

As a reference note:

"A press release from the Economic Development Partnership on April 25, 2014 stated that Medac would bring 615 jobs to North Augusta. Mayor Jones was quoted as saying there would be a "trickle over effect" from the deal, so presumably the investment of \$12 million in public funds was about bringing jobs and people to town. Jones further stated that Medac would be the "largest single, private employer in North Augusta when this project comes to fruition."

Please provide to me from City records all correspondence from any City official that references "Medac jobs, and or number of employees at Medac, " . I would specifically like to see any agreements , contracts , letters, memos, etc. that commit the developer to the number of jobs he will deliver as a result of the information in the paragraph above. It would appear to me that for a \$12 million City investment some tangible commitment/guarantee was executed by the City. I am concerned, as every citizen should be, that the recent revelation of the sale of Medac and the downward trend in number of employees might result in lesser jobs for North Augusta that has already been displayed during the past 3 years. This reduction might even cause the parent company of Medac to relocate from its North Augusta presence because why would they need all the current available space for less than half of the personnel space previously requested/required?

Please provide any documents that hold Mr. Schoen, Greenstone, or any other owners of 150 Bluff Avenue to a long term lease commitment (more than 10 years) so in the event of Medac leaving or continuing its reduction of personal, the citizens will be protected and at least collect the tax income generated by this property.

If there is a Foreclosure on the property for non payment of taxes what contingencies are in place to collect these taxes? I can imagine that a bank probably holds a mortgage on 150 Bluff Avenue so that the bank would be responsible for the taxes. If there is an auction as a result of Foreclosure , without a lease the property might be worth much less. Is there any document that the City has on file that describes what the financial impact might be on 150 Bluff

property without a tenant and has that personnel reduction resulted in lower Business Taxes or Property Taxes or any other taxes?

Lastly, was there any collateral supplied on the Medac Agreement that protects the City in case of any default?

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 and government activity 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,



A press release from the Economic Development Partnership on April 25, 2014 stated that Medac would bring 615 jobs to North Augusta. Mayor Jones was quoted as saying there would be a “trickle over effect” from the deal, so presumably the investment of \$12 million in public funds was about bringing jobs and people to town. Jones further stated that Medac would be the “largest single, private employer in North Augusta when this project comes to fruition.”

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10