

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNTY OF LAURENS



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Betty C. Walsh, Clerk to Council

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: MS. KATRINA FAY *ES*  
FROM: ERNIE SEGARS, LAURENS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
SUBJECT: FOIA REQUEST  
DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2008

This will acknowledge your request pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to review non-exempt public records as being approved. We would request, however, due to the amount of materials involved, that you contact Mrs. Betty Walsh, Laurens County Clerk to Council and schedule a time and date to review these records.

Your request and Laurens County responses are as follows:

A.) **QUESTION:** Documents indicating how the county is divided into each of the 7 different specific geographical boundaries represented by the Council members.

**RESPONSE:** The various files and documents related to single member districts are voluminous. The process is federally approved based in part upon census data available during every redistricting cycle. The State of South Carolina provides assistance in the geographical and statistical data. Following a detailed process with the State, Laurens County must adopt a proposed plan and submit the proposed plan to the US Department of Justice, Voting Rights Section for final approval.

You are more than welcome to review these files and related maps, however our staff will need to be present during your review. We would need at least 72 hours advance notice of a time and date to accommodate you.

B.) **QUESTION:** Documents, meeting minutes, handbooks, SOP's, and other procedures related to Laurens County Council operations. This request is NOT for state statutes, publications of bodies such as the SC Association of Counties, and other information authored and/or created by entities outside of Laurens County unless such document was created by an entity specifically for Laurens County Council.

**RESPONSE:** We will provide access to documents that are available. Please note that many of the operational policies and procedures of a County are controlled to some degree by state law.

C.) QUESTION: Per SC 30-40-55, the fiscal impact of the offer to acquire lands and develop the proposed parking lot referenced in Ordinance 669, including a cost-benefit analysis that compares the anticipated public cost of the commitments with the anticipated public benefits.

RESPONSE: At this stage, the offered incentives have not been accepted and/or finalized by or with the City of Clinton. The Section of law to which you refer deals with business or industry recruiting where traditionally a fee in lieu of taxes is offered. The request for funding (and the related use of the funds for public parking facilities) is from another governmental entity, therefore a fiscal impact on the affect to the tax base would not be applicable in that the City of Clinton is a tax-exempt body. There will be no reduction in any tax rates assessed to the City.

D.) QUESTION: Documents that are NOT included in item C above that were used in assessing the current traffic burden in the downtown Clinton area, such as fact based assessments and technical details of current traffic pattern descriptions, studies of parking lot ratio to pedestrian traffic, and any other analysis/calculations of current traffic patterns in the Downtown Clinton area.

RESPONSE: Laurens County does not possess any documents used in the determination of current traffic burdens in the City of Clinton. Reliance by Laurens County was made based on representations of the City. Existing public parking available in the downtown area is limited. The addition of 300+ faculty and students in the facility proposed to be purchased by the City of Clinton, would significantly impact the existing needs for additional and adequate public parking. Laurens County does not intend to expend additional funds to conduct any studies as outlined in your request. Laurens County, based upon the representations of the City, accepts the City's analysis that additional public parking would be necessary and required.

E.) QUESTION: Documents that are NOT included in items above forming the fact that "...a parking shortage ..is expected to result" per Ordinance 669, Findings of Fact item 8, in the future.

RESPONSE: Laurens County does not possess any documents as described in your request E.

F.) QUESTION: The version of Ordinance 667 referenced by attorney Margaret Pope during the County Council meeting on August 12, 2008 that includes the provisions of Article 1 words to the effect on how Presbyterian College would run the Pharmacy school.

RESPONSE: A copy of the proposed Ordinance #667 is available for your review. This is the only version of this proposed Ordinance presented to Laurens County Council. Council officially tabled this Ordinance on August 26, 2008 and further consideration of this proposed Ordinance is not expected.

G.) QUESTION: Documents that are NOT included in items above that form the fact stated in Ordinance 669, Findings of Fact, item 7 "that it is necessary...to acquire parcels of real property, pave and improve them and thereby provide public parking facilities in downtown Clinton to reduce traffic congestion and alleviate a parking shortage that is expected to result" in the future.

RESPONSE: Laurens County has various documents that in part form the basis for the statement. The proposal for the concept of the pharmacy school as well as the presentation and representations to the City of Clinton are available for your review. Laurens County has accepted the representations of the City of Clinton that an increase of several hundred cars per day without providing additional public parking would exacerbate the inadequate parking that currently existed in the downtown area.

H.) QUESTION: Documents NOT identified in items above that form the "economic development project" fact in Ordinance 669, Findings of Fact item 8.

RESPONSE: The general economic impact of the pharmacy school is stated in the context of the proposed Ordinance 669. An economic impact study was provided to Laurens County by the City of Clinton and is available for your review.

- I.) QUESTION: Documents NOT identified in items above, with the exception of documents of and documents incidental to proposed contractual arrangements, indicating participatory responsibilities/intent of the entities listed below, in the "economic development project" fact called out in the version of Ordinance 667, Findings of Fact item 8, emailed by Ms. Betty Walsh to Ms. Katrina Fay on 8-12-08.
- a. between Laurens County Council and the City of Clinton;
  - b. between Laurens County Council and Presbyterian College,
  - c. between Laurens County Council and the City of Clinton Economic Development Association

RESPONSE: (a.) Laurens County has not entered into any contractual arrangements with the City of Clinton at this time. The proposed Ordinance 669 outlines the anticipated relationship and responsibilities of Laurens County and the City of Clinton as it relates to providing adequate public parking facilities.

(b.) Laurens County has not entered into, nor does it anticipate entering into any participatory relationship with Presbyterian College.

(c.) Laurens County has not entered into any contractual arrangement with the Clinton Economic Development Corporation (CEDC). The CEDC is the economic development arm of the City of Clinton and could possibly be a party to future negotiations.

- J.) QUESTION: The communication from Presbyterian college indicating words to the effect that they could not participate in the subject economic development project as written per Ordinance 667.

RESPONSE: The results of the communications was outlined in the public meeting on August 26, 2008 by Bond Counsel Gary Pope. The minutes of this meeting are available for your review.

- K.) QUESTION: Documents NOT identified in items above, with the exception of documents of and documents incidental to proposed contractual arrangements, indicating participatory responsibilities/intent of the entities listed below, in the "economic development project" fact in Ordinance #669, Findings of Fact item 8.
- a. between Laurens County Council and the City of Clinton;
  - b. between Laurens County Council and Presbyterian College,
  - c. between Laurens County Council and the City of Clinton Economic Development Association

RESPONSE: Laurens County does not possess any documents as described in your request. The economic impact study referred to in H above is available for your review. Laurens County does not expect or anticipate any participatory responsibilities with Presbyterian College or CEDC. See response in I (a.) above. The intent and direction of the proposed Ordinance 669 sets forth the terms and conditions of the use of the bond proceeds.

Please contact Mrs. Betty Walsh at 864-984-5484 to arrange a mutually agreeable time to review these documents.