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**Subject:** E-Release - Gov. Sanford Signs Executive Order to Require Spending Transparency

**Attachments:** NR - e083007 - Spending Transparency.doc  
2007-14 Requiring State Government Spending Transparency.pdf

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Just following up on the Transparency Executive Order that the Governor issued earlier this month. Obviously, there are a number of questions and items we need to work through in order to make sure there is a uniformity in compliance among the Cabinet agencies.

I am asking each Cabinet Director to designate one or two people from either their Finance Division or their IT division to meet with us to discuss implementation and how we proceed.

We have already received names from the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism and the Department of Transportation - so Chad and Buck do not need to respond.

If there are any questions, please let us know. Leigh LeMoine in our office is collecting the names. She can be reached at 803-734-0067 or llemoine@gov.sc.gov.

Of course, I am glad to take any questions you might have.

Thanks and take care.

Scott

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
MARK SANFORD, GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gov. Sanford Signs Executive Order to Require Spending Transparency  
NEW PROCESS WILL MAKE SPENDING INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO  
CITIZENS VIA COMPTROLLER GENERALS OFFICE

Columbia, S.C. - August 30, 2007 - Gov. Mark Sanford today issued Executive Order 2007-14, a new directive aimed at providing citizens with a greater degree of information about how their tax dollars are being spent.

The Spending Transparency Executive Order was developed in concert with Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom's office, with the goal of bringing more accountability to where tax dollars are being spent. Under the Order, the Comptroller Generals Office will collect all agencies reports of funds expended and their source, and put that information on a Web site freely accessible to the public.

In addition, the Order directs each Cabinet agency to provide even more information and details about their expenditures. Each Cabinet agency will develop a searchable database on its own Web site listing specific agency expenditures. Travel expenditures, expenditures for office supplies over \$100, and contractual expenses over \$100 will all be included in the new searchable databases, which will be updated monthly.

Both the Comptrollers database and the Cabinet agencies databases will be available no later than March 8, 2008. The governor said that these databases should serve as a starting point, and challenged non-Cabinet agencies to participate as well.

We've long believed that transparency is key to voters ability to hold government accountable for the decisions it makes, Gov. Sanford said. This Executive Order is all about providing another tool for furthering that end, which is particularly important given the way spending has increased in Columbia over the past three years. I want to thank the Comptroller General for his work on this front, and I urge every agency to work diligently to make this information available sooner rather than later.

The internet provides elected officials a no-excuses way to make sure citizens have ready access to how their tax dollars are being spent, Comptroller General Eckstrom said. Our goal will be to have an easy-to-use database up and running as quickly as possible so that information on government spending is readily available to the public at large.

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