

From: Adams, Chaney <ChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov>  
To: Pisarik, HollyHollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov  
CC: Godfrey, RobRobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov  
Date: 6/1/2016 6:19:58 PM  
Subject: Fwd: interview request

---

Holly, let's discuss tomorrow.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robert Faturechi <Robert.Faturechi@propublica.org>  
Date: June 1, 2016 at 6:16:05 PM EDT  
To: "Adams, Chaney" <ChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov>  
Subject: RE: interview request

Hi Chaney,

Disappointed that the Governor won't be able to do an interview with us, but I do appreciate your offer to answer questions via email.

Here are a list of my specific questions, as you requested:

- Before the May 23, 2012 code council meeting (in which the residential fire sprinkler requirement was approved) adjourned, did the governor's office summons then-state fire marshal Adolf Zubia for a meeting for the next morning? If so, how did the governor's office become aware that the requirement was adopted? Did the governor's office receive complaints from the HBA?
- At the meeting the governor had with Zubia the next morning, did she tell him that he had to back off pushing for a residential fire sprinkler requirement if he wanted to remain in office? If so, was that pressure inspired by the HBA's complaints about Zubia and/or their complaints about the residential fire sprinkler requirement?
- Has the governor's office ever been influenced by political contributions from home builders and realtors?
- Why is the governor opposed to a fire sprinkler mandate for new one and two family homes?
- How would the governor characterize her relationship with the Home Builders Association of South Carolina?
- Why did the governor choose housing industry-friendly appointees to the code council?
- Why did Grant Gillespie check with Mark Nix (head of the HBA) about whether particular code council members should be reappointed? Does the governor think it's appropriate for the head of the industry's lobby group to have a say over who sits on the council that sets the rules for the industry?
- Why did the Governor appoint Brian Denny to the code council? Did the recommendation from the HBA play a role? Was the governor aware that Denny had recently been gifted a home by the HBA? Is it a conflict of interest for a council member who sets the rules for the home building industry to live in a home paid for by the home building industry's trade association?
- Did the HBA's recommendation of Melissa Hopkins influence the governor's decision to appoint her to the county official seat of the code council? In an email, Hopkins thanks the head of the HBA for the appointment. Is that appropriate, considering she sets the rules that home builders must abide by?
- Why did the governor not renew Frank Hodge as chair of the code council? Was the decision not to do so influenced by the HBA and intended to make the code council friendlier to home builders?
- The governor appointed Curtis Rye to the municipal administrator seat of the code council. He runs a lumber wholesaler that supplies developers and he is also a member of the HBA. Is it appropriate for him to be a member of the HBA and hold his seat on the code council?
- The governor appointed Frank Norris to the insurers seat on the code council. Was the governor's decision to appoint him influenced by the fact that he was recommended by the HBA? Norris is a member of the HBA who

sells insurance to home builders. While on the code council, he was inducted into the HBA hall of fame at an invite-only event on an island resort, with the HBA noting his “unwavering efforts to protect the home building industry.” Is it appropriate for him to hold his seat on the council and to be an HBA member who accepts that award?

-Why were there 6 builders on the residential builders commission last year, despite the law’s requirement that there be no more than 5? This is no longer the case – when did that change and why? Is this why Frank Clark is no longer on the commission?

-Why did the governor quickly replace state fire marshal John Reich when she came into office? Did the HBA’s complaints about him, or his advocacy of fire sprinkler mandates play a role?

-Why did the inspector general’s office that the governor created do an audit of the South Carolina State Firefighters’ Association’s one-percent fund as one of its first orders of business? (This occurred before the IG became independent.) Did HBA complaints prompt the audit? Was the audit a reaction to the association’s intense advocacy on behalf of the fire sprinkler mandate during the period immediately prior to Gov. Haley coming into office?

-When preparing to appoint Zubia as fire marshal, did the governor tell him “You will never mandate residential sprinklers in the state of South Carolina”?

-According to Zubia, Mark Nix told him that the HBA has the governor in their “pocket” – and as a result the HBA felt little need to compromise on the residential fire sprinkler issue. Zubia says he recounted that claim by Nix to the governor. What is the governor’s response to that characterization?

-Does the governor support the legislative effort to make South Carolina no longer bound in any way by ICC residential code recommendations?

-Is there anything else on these issues that the governor’s office would like to talk about?

Thanks so much for your willingness to help,  
Robert

Robert Faturechi  
[Reporter, ProPublica](#)  
Desk: 917-512-0216  
Cell: 213-271-7217  
[robert.faturechi@propublica.org](mailto:robert.faturechi@propublica.org)

---

From: Robert Faturechi  
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 12:50 PM  
To: 'Adams, Chaney'  
Subject: RE: interview request

Hi Chaney,

Just checking in about my request below.

Thanks much,  
Robert

Robert Faturechi  
[Reporter, ProPublica](#)  
Desk: 917-512-0216  
Cell: 213-271-7217  
[robert.faturechi@propublica.org](mailto:robert.faturechi@propublica.org)

---

From: Robert Faturechi  
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 4:34 PM  
To: 'Adams, Chaney'  
Subject: interview request

Hi Chaney,

Hope you’re doing well. I’m writing to request an interview with Gov. Haley.

As you know, I'm working on an in-depth story about how the fire sprinkler mandate was killed in South Carolina. Using records and interviews with people involved, my reporting explores the South Carolina Home Builders Association's influence on the legislature, the code council and the governor's office. I have questions for the governor about specific incidents and appointees, but I'd also like to talk to her more generally about her philosophy on government regulation.

We are planning on publishing soon. My goal is an exceedingly fair and accurate story that gives the governor her full say.

Thanks so much,  
Robert

Robert Faturechi  
Reporter, ProPublica  
Desk: 917-512-0216  
Cell: 213-271-7217  
[robert.faturechi@propublica.org](mailto:robert.faturechi@propublica.org)