



## State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY  
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET  
COLUMBIA 29201

August 21, 2015

Mr. Joel Anderson  
*Buzzfeed*  
200 Fifth Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10010

Dear Mr. Anderson,

Our office has completed compiling records responsive to your July 31, 2015 Freedom of Information Act request for the following:

“Any and all electronic communication to and from Gov. Haley’s office and staff regarding the Confederate flag since June 17, 2015.”

Be advised that records will be redacted where exemptions apply pursuant to Section 30-4-40(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, specifically including exemptions for Section 30-4-40(a)(7) (correspondence or work products of legal counsel and any other material that would violate attorney-client relationships may be exempt) and Section 30-4-40(a)(2) (information of a personal nature where the public disclosure thereof would constitute unreasonable invasion of personal privacy may be exempt).

Pursuant to Section 30-4-30(b), our office will charge a reasonable cost for compiling and copying records as follows: At this time, our office has located at least an estimated 14,850 pages of records from June 1, 2015 through July 31, 2015. For compilation of these records, our office calculates the total cost to be estimated at \$1,990.59, which includes an estimated \$1,485.00 for copies (approximately 14,850 pages at ten cents per page) and an estimated \$505.59 for staff time (approximately fourteen hours and five minutes to search and copy records at an average hourly wage of \$35.90).

However, due to the widespread, national public interest of these issues, our office has chosen to waive the charge for more than 14 hours of staff time spent searching and compiling records as allowed by Section 30-4-30(b) (a reduced charge is appropriate where waiver of the fee is

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determined by the agency to be in the public interest). Accordingly, we have waived the cost for staff time and will only assess a cost for copies of records.

The total estimated cost our office will charge is \$1,485.00, for which a deposit of \$100.00 is required to proceed. Please provide payment by check, made payable to the "Office of the Governor" and delivered or mailed to the following address:

Office of the Governor  
c/o Swati Patel, Chief Legal Counsel  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Once the deposit has been received, we will finish compiling records and determine a final cost. We will notify you as soon as a final cost has been determined. Should you choose to narrow your request, please do so in writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Swati S. Patel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "P".

Swati S. Patel  
Chief Legal Counsel

SSP/rs