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Date: 12/6/2014 5:07:05 PM
Subject: Re: Major discovery -- SC FOIA law and Chambers of Commerce

John this is a huge discovery and fully confirms what we all have been saying about SC Foia , and the fact that only one reason remains on why some are refusing SC Foia and compliance . That is they have something to hide and fear discovery of wrong doing . I feel confident I will prevail in my current SC Foia Lawsuit against this HHI chamber and this victory will force all chambers and CVBs to be transparency and stop millions in abuse . Our current Hhi chamber and its abusive leadership

and appointed buddy board is operating under a redrafted set of bylaws that leaves basically no rights for members . It has enabled the power in a few hands and contracts for goods and services to go where a few buddies want our money to go , even out of our country . Bad enough out of our city and state with no local bidding process . Extreme abuse by its self and proves self dealing and self serving . I am sure we will find this same thing across our state once they are all forced to open the books !!!

I have read all your research on forensic audits on Palm beach Cvb /chamber , New Orleans , Las Vegas etc and this all leaves no doubt on what will be discovered once a Forensic audit is complete on our HHI chamber and possibly other entities who receive large amounts of our public monies . Anyone who receives over 100-200k must be looked at deeply .

I want to set the record straight on my comments on the following leaders in our community and State ,respected or not . I have nothing against any of them and many I never met nor spoke 10 words to . My comments have been and remain that they all took the position to support non transparency , accountability and performance measures under SC Foia laws after being fully educated !!!!! My position is if they take this position with the HHI chamber then we need to seek SC Foia or an independent Audit of entities they also managed . I am suspect of anyone including my own family members who refuse transparency to me or others , especially using their money .

I am not saying I do not trust them I am saying truth through verification and independent audits . This is just good business and the fact we have allowed millions to be handed out over the last 20-40 yrs with no independent audits , little accountability and performance measures and no strict set of guidelines outlined must change . It's all do simple . Our team of professionals including John Buchanan , lawyers and accountants and others have completed all this . All our Mayor and councils need to do is act and do what's right with no pressure from the outside to do otherwise .

This is why David Bennett won the election , people are tired of all this and want change . I did not fully support anyone what I supported in all my ads is truth , transparency , accountability and proof of performance . In the last 40 yrs we have be abused , mislead and violated , this must end . Call these following people up I did some and they said they sided with our Chamber and I was wrong . Most voted for Drew laughlin and assume like Drew that no more transparency , accountability and proven performance measures was needed or important to them , just satisfied with status quo !!!!! We all saw the results of this position !!!!!

Jane Upshaw , Tom Upshaw , David Tigges , Paula Bethea , John Vann , Steve Riley , Brian Hulbert , every executive buddy board member of the HHI chamber and more all need to be approached and asked are they willing to be totally transparent and agree to an independent audit . As they are in leadership positions they all represent a small number in our community and if they refuse to be transparent will find themselves in Drew Laughlin's position at some point in time . Our new mayor has a huge majority fully supporting him and counting on him to clean it all up . It is not about politics , who likes who , what favor , it's simply about full transparency for our Mayor and not let the few people intimidate or put pressure on him . If David makes good guys be good , good guys from going bad and bad guys be good he will win a second term just like he did this election . It's not about big local corporate and power structure endorsement it's about winning the hearts and minds of the majority of our local tax payers . Drew laughlin had much of this endorsement and lost 65 to 35 in a massive defeat .

I wish David much success and if I feel he has not done the job the majority on this island wants I will take out an ad on Mayor Bennett as well. Thx

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

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On Dec 6, 2014, at 2:59 PM, John Buchanan <jtwg50@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi, Skip. Per our conversation, I have made what appears to be a major discovery via the South Carolina Press Association. I spoke to them yesterday and then was shown the link on their website. According to their explanation of SC FOIA law, "A 'public body' is any entity supported by public funds, even in part, or that expends public funds ... Even non-profit agencies and **Chambers of Commerce** that receive public funds are subject to the FOIA."

That also means that Lowcountry Economic Alliance is clearly subject to FOIA.

The actual link to their website, where this can be found, is: <http://www.scpres.org/Documents/citizen.pdf>.

The preceding quote is from the question, "Who or what is covered by the FOIA?"

Hopefully, this will become the "smoking gun" when it comes to ending any claim by the HH Chamber/VCB that they are NOT subject to FOIA.

And this is obviously also in keeping with the judge's landmark ruling in the New Orleans CVB case last year.

Please note that per your request, all members of the Beaufort County Council and Hilton Head Town Council are CC'd here, along with Micah Leddy.

Please feel free to forward this to whomever else you please.

Thanks.

John Buchanan

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Sent: Friday, December 5, 2014 3:08 PM

Subject: Re: LEA FOIA request

David please add : under SC FOIA you have 15 days to respond . Thx
FOIA for the RFP for lobbying services awarded to the McNair Law Firm; the four responses from bidders, all of whom were interviewed; the rating scale used (based on the interviews); and any other documents relevant to the decision, including the names of LEA board members on the selection committee, if there was one. Again I want to have copy of all emails and explanation on inside and outside involvement with Jane Upshaw including Tom Upshaw , Palmetto electric , Bill Miles and hhi chamber including any executive board members for

insurance policies issued and not bid out , including all other goods and services issued to companies and individuals listed and explained in detail . Please include any involvement of Steve Riley , Drew laughlin , any officials in Beaufort not just HHI with LEA . Basically a list and explanation of anyone connected to LEA in any form or fashion .

The HHI chamber is separate and much will be discovered once an independent audit begins and is complete . This will be regardless of your efforts to hide and skirt info under sc FOIA laws . Thx

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

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On Nov 28, 2014, at 11:16 PM, Skip Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com> wrote:

David I want to submit a FOIA for last 3 yrs tax returns of LEA. Will need a detailed list of all salaries and to who , payments for every service and income from every source . Tell me what your connection is to Jane Upshaw and how is it you as Chairman received 45k for legal services over other law firms being the chairman ? Was this an RFP ? I need all details on this as well? There were four responses correct ? the rating scale was this based on interviews and what else ? any other documents relevant to the decision, including the name of the selection committee, if there was one. If you are Chairman is it fair to assume you choose yourself ? Do you feel there is a conflict ? Thx

David Tigges off your own Mcnair law firm site you seem to sit on many boards are you receiving fees from all these as well . You mention you were even appointed to one board by Bobby Harrell who I assume is a friend of yours ? Thanks

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