

To: "Dale Williams" <dale_williams@columbiacountyfla.com>
From: StewLilker <StewLilker@att.net>
Subject: Budget financials & records request
Cc: DeWitt_C, DC Markham, Marlin_F, Diane_E,

"Sunlight is the best disinfectant." Supreme Ct Justice, Louis Brandies

Subject: Columbia County's disregard of the Public Records laws of Florida. (con't)
To: CM Dale Williams; Others

Dale,

1. Pub records request and the short answer:

Pursuant to the Public Records law of Florida, please forward me **the original digital copy** of the document to which you refer below, "budget expenditure work sheets," that is now found on the web. Please refer to ref no.: 09_0908_038, in all correspondence regarding this request.

Dale: A similar document was originally posted on the county web site last year, but after it was mentioned at a budget hearing, it mysteriously disappeared and was replaced by a different document with the same name. If you can locate the original document, you will immediately notice the benefit of using it as it came from the **Outside Auditor** - Dick Powell, rather than doing what you have done this year.

I am looking forward to receipt of this digital document, which was prepared directly from Excel. Indeed the Excel file might even be preferable, or you may include both that and the pdf file which was produced by Excel. I don't think the electrons will mind.

If Outside Auditor, Dick Powell, in his other capacity as **financial consultant to the county** would send the files along, that would be fine and appreciated.

2. Regarding your statement below, [The document you are seeking can now be found on the web.](#) -- **There is no excuse for your almost total disregard of the Public Records Laws of Florida.** I asked for this information well over a month ago. This is documented below and I will not repeat it.

3. At 08:47 AM 9/4/2009, you wrote: [Stew: You have the ONLY financials prepared by P&J that were used in preparing the budget.](#) **Obviously, by your own words, this is not true.** (Unless Dick Powell is farming out the County's financial work -- If this is the case, please let me know to whom). I knew this was not part of the audit when I asked for the information and so did you.

4. Additionally, regarding item number one, I would like some sort of idea when it is that I will receive the files or file, preferably within the confines of the spirit of the Sunshine Laws.

I am thanking you in advance for your attention to these matters.

Stew

At 08:42 AM 9/8/2009, you wrote:

Stew:

The document you are seeking can now be found on the web. It is the budget expenditure worksheets. This document is not part of the audit. Dale

From: StewLilker [<mailto:StewLilker@att.net>]
Sent: Monday, September 07, 2009 10:08 PM
To: Dale Williams
Cc: DeWitt C; Linda Odom; DC Markham
Subject: Budget financials

Dale,

Thanks for the courtesy of a prompt reply.

In your response you asked, "What are you looking for?" in reference to a conversation we had had regarding the financial information used to prepare the 2009-10 county budget and the county audit.

I was looking for the audit and appreciate your sending it along.

You have forgotten that at the time I asked for the audit and questioned when it would be available, **I also mentioned** that one cannot do a budget, (at least no one I know) without prior years figures such as expenditures ytd, estimated actuals, and final budget figures from the prior year.

You said that you had those and would send them along. **You never did.**

To think that a county audit for the year 2007-08 includes the figures which would enable you to produce a multi million dollar county budget for the year 2009-10 is well -- you know.

Regards, Stew

At 08:47 AM 9/4/2009, you wrote:

Stew:

You have the ONLY financials prepared by P&J that were used in preparing the budget. What are you looking for? Dale

From: StewLilker [mailto:StewLilker@att.net]
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2009 11:10 AM
To: Dale Williams
Cc: DC Markham; DeWitt C; The Hon; The Hon; The Hon; Gov Crist; JC_Chastain.
Subject: RE: Request for Records

Dale,

Regarding your confusion.

If the County responded to requests in a timely manner; if the County respected the spirit and intent of the Sunshine Laws and had a clearly definable Records Access Officer, which is required by law, this might not be a continuing issue.

Over a month ago I asked for "the financial information that you said you had from P&J which you used to prepare the budget material for the workshops." You said you would send it. The story should have ended there. This seemed simple, unambiguous, straightforward and easy to accomplish. I also mentioned that I would prefer the information in its original digital format. That request is within the bounds of the law.

I had no trouble receiving this info in the past. Over a month went by and I still didn't receive the material.

I also asked for the audit, which -- thank you, you did send.

There is no need for confusion in these matters. There is only a need for compliance.

Have a great day -- see you later.

Regards,
Stew

PS> FYI: I can assure you that in the other Constitutional Offices in this county, the Sheriff, the Appraiser or the Tax Collector, and with the City and the IDA, there is no problem with records access. Indeed, the only place that there is a problem is the County Commission and Jack Berry's Hospital Authority. The common thread -- well ...

At 09:34 AM 9/3/2009, you wrote:

Stew:

I am now confused about item 1. You have received, in electronic format as requested, the financials as prepared by the external auditor. What are you expecting? It must be a document other than the financials. Dale

From: StewLilker [<mailto:StewLilker@att.net>]

Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2009 9:25 AM

To: Dale Williams

Cc: DC Markham; DeWitt C; The Hon; Adria Harper; The Hon; The Hon; Gov Crist; J C

Subject: Re: FW: 2008 Columbia County Report

To: County Manager Dale Williams, Others
Sent to the FAF for informational purposes only

Date: September 3, 2009

Subject: [The County is out of compliance with the Sunshine Laws -- Again](#)

Dale,

I appreciate some of the information that I had requested.

1. The financial information, which I have just received, arrived over thirty days from the time it was requested. You still have not delivered what I had asked for, i.e., the financial information that you said you had from P&J which you used to prepare the budget material for the workshops. P&J is Powell and Jones, who are the outside auditors.
2. The letter regarding the Jail was requested over sixty days ago. I have still not received it. I remind you that when I asked for that letter, you turned to Ms. Stanley and said, "Get it for him."
3. Without going into a litany regarding the requirements of the Public Records Laws of Florida, you are out of compliance -- not only with the letter of the law, but with its spirit and intent -- and you know it.
4. **Recently, in a letter to the Gov. Christ, Columbia County complained about, among other things, Florida Crown's compliance with the Sunshine Laws of Florida. Not only are Mr. Bailey's and the County's innuendos regarding this issue delusional -- they are a lie. I remind you that in some parts of the universe, lying is considered malfeasance. That my friend is serious business for public officials and those they hire to represent them and may one day even apply in Columbia County.**

Thanks for the information. I look forward to receiving the rest.

And one more thing. Recently it appears you have made some sort of pledge regarding transparency. I remind you that in Columbia County this is not optional, it is mandated by the County Charter and is something that you and your board have been violating for years. There is no need to go around pledging, it is the law. So as the Nike folks say -- **Just do it.**

Regards, Stew

PS> You might find the following link to [Lake City's Own Sunshine Girls](#) helpful.

PPS> Your apology regarding the delay is noted. If I hadn't asked you for this information numerous times in the past months, I would take it under consideration. I have had these apologies before in similar circumstances. Thus -- now they are just noted.

StewLilker
Pub/ed
[Columbia County Observer](#)
(386-454-4500)

At 05:34 PM 9/2/2009, you wrote:

I had to request the information in electronic format. I apologize for the delay. By copy of this e-mail I am requesting that Penny provide you a copy of the July, 2008 letter regarding the private e e prison . sp; p; Dale

From: elaine@powellandjonescpa.com [<mailto:elaine@powellandjonescpa.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2009 12:40 PM
To: Dale Williams
Subject: 2008 Columbia County Report

Please find attached the 2008 Columbia County report. Thank you.

,snip.....>

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