



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
LAW DEPARTMENT
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MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU
MAYOR

NANNETTE JOLIVETTE BROWN
CITY ATTORNEY

September 16, 2011

Ms. Ariella Cohen
Co-founder & Staff writer
The Lens
1025 S. Jeff Davis Pkwy.
New Orleans, LA 70125

Via Electronic Mail
acohen@thelensnola.org

Re: Public Records Act Request/Wisner Fund

Dear Ms Cohen:

Our office is in receipt of your Public Records Act dated September 16, 2011 in which you requested the following:

A record showing all Wisner Fund expenditures made in 2010 and 2011.

Your request has been forwarded to the Mayor's Office for a determination of whether responsive records exist and, if so, for response to your request. Please note that records may be in active use at this time and therefore not available for immediate review. Also, many records may be archived or not maintained in the format sought in your public records request, thereby requiring additional time for collection and compilation of responsive records.

In accordance with the Louisiana Public Records Act, La. R.S. § 44:1, et seq., the City of New Orleans strives to promptly release all records which contain only public information; however, there are certain records which the City is not at liberty to release without prior review. Please be advised that, in accordance with La. R.S. § 44:32(B), some requested records or information contained in the records may be of a non-public nature. There are numerous exceptions and exemptions included in the Louisiana Public Records Act to protect law enforcement interests, privacy rights, and due process rights for all citizens, which must be honored. The City must balance its commitment to open access with its legal obligation to review public records for such exceptions and exemptions prior to release.

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Provided that records exist and are maintained in the format requested, the records that are responsive to your request may fall under an exception identified in La. R.S. § 44:4.1, may be exempt from disclosure, or may include other exempt, privileged or protected information, as provided in La. R.S. §§ 44:3, 44:4, 44:11, or other provisions of local, state or federal law, which the City must segregate from the public records that will be produced.

Additionally, the City recognizes that it may not make inquiry regarding the purpose of or reasons for your request for the specific records. However, the City encourages all requesting parties to narrow requests as much as possible in order for a meaningful and manageable records response to be provided in a timely and efficient manner. For large requests that require extensive time to gather, review and produce responsive records, the City must, as do the federal government and other public entities, utilize its limited resources prudently and ask requesters to narrow each request as much as possible and share in the cost of preparing reproductions, if necessary.

As soon as our office has been notified by the Mayor's Office that responsive public records have been compiled, and the records are available for review, you will be notified to schedule a mutually agreeable time for your review of the records. Thank you for your request, and we look forward to working in cooperation with you to provide eligible public records in a fair and efficient manner.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (504) 658-9800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anita B. Curran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Anita B. Curran
Assistant City Attorney