## **Exhibit L**



Kathy Strom, *Mayor*Patricia Burda, *Vice Mayor*Al Lang, *Secretary*Vicky Taplin, *Treasurer*John Bickerman, *Community Liaison* 

June 20, 2014

## VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: mwschoenbaum@yahoo.com

Miriam Schoenbaum 1500 Clopper Road Boyds, MD 20841

RE: MPIA Request Dated May 21, 2014

Dear Ms. Schoenbaum:

The Town of Chevy Chase (hereinafter "Town") has received your request pursuant to the Maryland Public Information Act (hereinafter "Act") dated May 21, 2014. This letter will serve as the official response of the Town. As you know, the Maryland Public Information Act authorizes the Town to charge a reasonable fee for making copies and a reasonable fee for researching its records. In your request, you outline your arguments in support of a waiver of all fees associated with your request. Please be advised your request for a waiver has been considered and is denied. Accordingly, the Town will expect payment in full for all fees associated with your request.

The fees imposed by the Town for research varies, based on the compensation level of staff member that would need to review and compile the different categories of records. Additionally, documents will have to be reviewed by legal counsel for possible confidential, privileged, or exempted information. The hourly fees of the employees and attorney that are anticipated to work on your request are as follows:

- Todd Hoffman, Town Manager: \$75.00 per hour
- Joel Happy, Town Clerk: \$25.00 per hour
- Town Attorney: \$215.00 per hour

As for your request, there are five (5) subjects that form the basis of your requests. They are as follows:

- 1. Agreements and Contracts;
- 2. Invoices and Bills;
- 3. Correspondence;

- 4. Minutes;
- 5. Waiver of Costs for Responding to Requests

Responding to your request has been very time consuming and expensive. Our staff has collected some of the records requested, and they are ready for inspection. These documents are responsive to Requests 1, 2 and 4 outlined above. They are as follows:

- Minutes dated May 14<sup>th</sup>, April 9<sup>th</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup>, February 20<sup>th</sup> and February 12<sup>th</sup>;
- Contract with Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney dated March 14, 2014; and
- Invoices of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney

Your request for correspondence is extensive and will have to be researched by Town staff. Further, any and all correspondence potentially responsive to your request will have to be reviewed by the Town's attorney for possible confidential, privileged, or exempted information. It is anticipated that the research within our office will be at least five (5) hours, which does not include the fee for review by the Town's attorney. It is anticipated the review by the attorney will be at least three (3) hours. Accordingly, we would request that a deposit of \$1,345.00 be provided to the Town before research begins.

Finally, any and all copies of these documents will be charged the standard rate. The Town charges \$.50 cents per page for photocopying. Please note that your request will not be processed before the deposit disclosed herein has been delivered. Based on the previous request made by you relating to the same general topic, we will not provide the first two (2) hours of research free of charge. Please be advised the description of charges herein are estimates, and the Town reserves the right to request additional deposits, and to revise the cost based on actual time spent and actual photocopying costs incurred, as it deems necessary.

Pursuant to § 10-614(b)(3)(ii)3, I must inform you of all remedies available for review. Pursuant to § 10-623, you are entitled to pursue judicial enforcement remedies.

If you wish to inspect the records that are currently available under the Act, please contact the Town to arrange a mutually convenient time for your inspection. If you wish to obtain copies of any records at the applicable rate, our staff will assist you.

Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Todd Hoffman

Town Manager