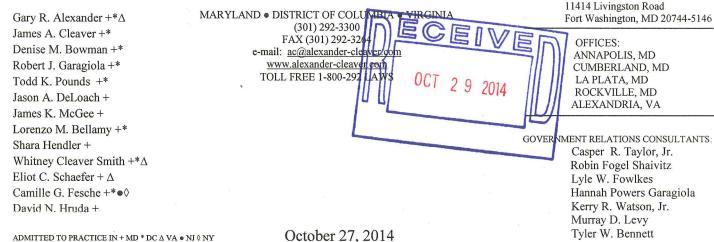
## **Exhibit N**

## *ALEXANDER & CLEAVER*

## ATTORNEYS AT

Professional Association



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONSULTANTS: Casper R. Taylor, Jr. Robin Fogel Shaivitz Lyle W. Fowlkes Hannah Powers Garagiola Kerry R. Watson, Jr. Murray D. Levy Tyler W. Bennett

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE IN + MD \* DC △ VA • NJ ◊ NY

Ambika J. Biggs Baker & Hostetler LLP Washington Square, Suite 1100 1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20036-5304

RE: MPIA Request – dated October 15, 2014

Dear Ms. Biggs:

The undersigned represents the Town of Chevy Chase (hereinafter "Town"). Please be advised the Town has received your request on behalf of your client, ACT, pursuant to the Maryland Public Information Act (hereinafter "Act") dated October 15, 2014. 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 the request. Please be advised the request for a waiver has been considered and is denied. Accordingly, the Town will expect payment in full for all fees associated with the request.

The fees imposed by the Town for research varies, based on the compensation level of the staff member that would need to review and compile the different categories of records. Additionally, I will have to review any and all records for possible confidential, privileged, or exempted information. The hourly rate of the Town employee that will work on the request, as well as my rate, are as follows:

Todd Hoffman, Town Manager: \$78.00 per hour

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

The Town is prepared to respond to the request for meeting minutes "from all closed sessions held by the Town Council from November 23, 2013 to present." Pursuant to § 4-301(2)(i) of the Act, a custodian <u>shall</u> deny inspection of a public record or any part of a public record if disclosure would be contrary to a State statute. Accordingly, the request for closed session minutes is being denied pursuant to § 3-306(3)(ii) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, which prohibits disclosure of closed session minutes.

As for the remaining items in the extensive request, the Town Manager will have to conduct research to see if any records are responsive to the request. Further, the undersigned will review any and all records potentially responsive to the request for possible confidential, privileged, or exempted information. It is anticipated that the research conducted by the Town Manager will be at least three (3) hours, which does not include my fee for review. It is anticipated my review will be at least three (3) hours. Accordingly, we would request that a deposit of \$879.00 be provided to the Town before research begins.

Moreover, 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 your client 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 § 4-203(c)(iii), we must provide inform you notice of the remedies under the Act. Pursuant to § 4-362, your client is entitled to pursue judicial enforcement remedies.

Upon receipt of the deposit, we will begin the process of researching to determine if any public records are responsive to your voluminous request.

Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely

JASON A. DELOACH