Exhibit P



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

November 21, 2014

Benjamin Ross 4710 Bethesda Avenue, #819 Bethesda, MD 20814

RE: MPIA Request - dated November 10, 2014

Dear Mr. Ross:

Please be advised the Town has received your request pursuant to the Maryland Public Information Act (hereinafter "Act") dated November 10, 2014. 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 identify yourself as a member of the media as a basis for a waiver of all fees associated with the request. Please be advised that the request for a waiver has been considered and is denied. We do not believe this request is being made in your capacity as a member of the media. This belief is based on the first request you submitted and then immediately withdrew on November 10, 2014, which clearly indicated it was being submitted on behalf of the Action Committee for Transit (ACT), along with your known affiliation with ACT. 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 who would need to review and compile the different categories of records. Additionally, the town's attorney will have to review any and all records for possible confidential, privileged, or exempted information. The undersigned will be the town employee who will work on the request, and my rate, as well as the attorney's 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 1, 2013 to present." Pursuant to § 4-301(2)(i) of the Act, a custodian shall 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 your 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 the review by counsel 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 requests made by an organization you are affiliated with 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 you notice of the remedies under the Act. Pursuant to § 4-362, you are 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 request. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Todd Hoffman

Town Manager