

October 31, 2025

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Jennifer Wood
P.O. Box 3642
Irmo, SC 29063
jenn@fitsnews.com
research@fitsnews.com

Re: October 16, 2025, Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Ms. Wood:

As you know, our law firm represents Hampton County (the “County”). I am writing in response to your above-referenced South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (the “Act” or “FOIA”) request, which was received by the County on October 16, 2025. The County has forwarded me a copy of your request and asked that I respond to you directly. You have made the following specific request in your FOIA submission:

“Pursuant to the updated South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-10 et seq., please provide my news outlet with copies of any and all records that reflect, reference or contain the following information:

- **All correspondence, invoices, payment records, and reconciliation documents related to the leased equipment referenced in Hampton County’s October 16, 2025 official statement concerning the Public Works Department’s “payment posting error” and subsequent repossession.**
- **Any and all communications (including emails, letters, and phone logs or call summaries) between Hampton County employees, officials, or agents and John Deere, Deere & Company Financial Services, or any other equipment-leasing vendor from July 1, 2025 through October 17, 2025 regarding lease payments, account status, or equipment retrieval.**

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- **Copies of all payment receipts, canceled checks, ACH confirmations, or other proof of payment showing funds applied to the affected lease accounts referenced in the statement.**
- **Internal memoranda or emails discussing the discovery, investigation, or resolution of the “payment posting error.”**
- **Documentation of the new “internal controls” or procedural changes implemented as a result of this incident, including any policy memos, directives, or staff guidance issued after October 16, 2025.**

Please note that this request seeks any and all public information pursuant to the above-stated request, including any official business conducted on private email, phone or messaging accounts.”

The County has reviewed your above request. **To the extent the County does not have a record conforming to your request, the County is under no obligation to create a public record and it has not done so with respect to your FOIA Request(s).** While the County stands committed to full and open disclosure under FOIA, the County is unwilling to disclose items that are otherwise exempt from disclosure under Section 30-4-40(a) of FOIA.

Should the County have in its possession responsive records as you describe in your request, it will provide you with the requested records which are non-exempt thereunder within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter in compliance with the Act. The County is working diligently to provide the records you request and is making every effort to organize these records such that they are available for your review well in advance of the Act’s thirty (30) calendar day deadline. Once I have reviewed these documents, if any, and have had the ability to remove or redact any exempt information therefrom, either the County or I will provide you with notice of the same.

Thank for your interest in Hampton County.

Sincerely,

Joseph D. Dickey, Jr

JDD
Enclosure(s)