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January 18, 2023

Patrick Duff

Via email: opra+request-38787-07dd1a66@requests.opramachine.com

Dear Mr. Duff,

The Township of Medford received your Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request on January 3, 2023. The official Records Custodian received your OPRA request on January 5, 2023. As such, the seven (7) business day deadline to respond to your request is January 18, 2023. This response to your request is being provided to you on the 7th business day after the custodian's receipt of your request.

The following records are being requested:

Communications to include letters, memos, and emails from 8-1-22 through today regarding the easement known as "Post Office Lane" between any representative of Medford Village Car Care and Magnify Brewing, with any council member, mayor, town manager, zoning official, or Solicitor. Please include all attachments to any of the emails and letters sent.

The Township Attorney has provided the following response to the OPRA request concerning Post Office Lane:

Post Office Lane is a 10 foot wide easement area located between property owned by Medford Village Car Care (Block 1805, Lot 1) and property owned by Medford Township (Block 1801, Lot 4) formerly used as the Medford Township Municipal Building.

For many years, Post Office Lane has served as public access and parking for the former Township Municipal Building and Cranberry Hall, the former municipal meeting and courtroom.

As part of the planned redevelopment of the former municipal building property, the Township has designated a redeveloper and is preparing a proposed redevelopment plan. A component of the proposed redevelopment plan is a proposed plan and formal easement for the expansion of Post Office Lane which will require consent of the property owner of Block 1805, Lot 1. Township Officials have met informally with the property owner. The Township is currently finalizing a plan and proposed easement for the expansion of Post Office Lane, to be presented to the property owner when completed.

Further negotiation and/or legal action will be required, and the proposed plan and easement may change after they are presented to the property owner. Until completion of the plan for the expansion of Post Office Lane and negotiations with the property owner are completed, or any required legal action is completed, any government records concerning same are covered by the attorney-client privilege and contract negotiations, exempted from disclosure by common law and by the provisions of N.J.S.A. 47: 1A-1.1. Upon finalization of the plans and completion of negotiations and/or further legal action with the property owner, any government records concerning the same can be disclosed."

If your request for access to a government record has been denied or unfilled within the seven (7) business days required by law, you have a right to challenge the decision by the Township of Medford to deny access. At your option, you may either institute a proceeding in the Superior Court of New Jersey or file a complaint with the Government Records Council (GRC) by completing the Denial of Access Complaint Form. You may contact the GRC by toll-free telephone at 866-850-0511, by mail at P.O. Box 819, Trenton, NJ, 08625, by e-mail at grc@dca.state.nj.us, or at their web site at www.state.nj.us/grc. The GRC can also answer other questions about the law. All questions regarding complaints filed in Superior Court should be directed to the Court Clerk in your County.

Sincerely,

Katherine E. Burger

Katherine E. Burger
Township Clerk