
From: Shaler, Karen (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:12 AM
To: Wyant, Dan (DEQ); Pallone, Maggie (DEQ); Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Cc: Thelen, Mary Beth (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Comment sought on Rep. Phelps Files Suit Against State of Michigan, City of Flint
Attachments: Request for Disclosure of Official Files; FW: FOIA request from Phelps - 6422-15; RE: FOIA request from Phelps - 6422-15; 6422 - EXEC, ODWMA, WRD + Lansing - due: 9/15/15; Attached FOIA Request and \$50 Check; Request for Disclosure of Official Files

Executive Division did not have any records for Rep. Phelps' FOIA request; only ODWMA did. Attached are e-mails about the handling of his FOIA request. This FOIA was assigned to EXE, ODWMA, and WRD; and Rep. Phelps was notified of that via the 1st attached e-mail of September 10. The 4th attached e-mail contains the 3 documents that ODWMA Lansing District (Jo Anne Rennaker) e-mailed on September 30 to Rep. Phelps at no charge. The last attached e-mail is the denial e-mail that Susan Vorce sent on September 28 indicating that EXE and WRD don't have any records, and I was unaware of her e-mail until October 1 when I checked the U drive folder where our FOIA office saves the PDF of FOIA requests and e-mails to the requesters.

Here is a link to the "DEQ FOIA Information" that's on our home page: <http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135--357782--,00.html>

The 2nd to last link on that page is a draft of the new DEQ Policy and Procedure No. 01-006A, which is for the public to know how to make a FOIA request and how it's processed in DEQ.

Please let me know if you need anything else. Thanks.

From: Pallone, Maggie (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 7:38 AM
To: Shaler, Karen (DEQ)
Cc: Thelen, Mary Beth (DEQ); Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Comment sought on Rep. Phelps Files Suit Against State of Michigan, City of Flint

Karen-
 Can you help Brad and Dan on what documents were provided to Phelps? From both ODWMA and EXE?
 Thanks,
 Maggie

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 9:35 PM
To: Pallone, Maggie (DEQ) <PalloneM@michigan.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Comment sought on Rep. Phelps Files Suit Against State of Michigan, City of Flint

Need you on this. Probably will help to have copies of whatever we shared and I want to be sure I know what I know. Thanks.

b

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wurfel, Sara (GOV)" <Wurfels@michigan.gov>
To: "Wyant, Dan (DEQ)" <WyantD@michigan.gov>, "Pallone, Maggie (DEQ)" <PalloneM@michigan.gov>, "Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)" <WurfelB@michigan.gov>, "Tommasulo, Karen (DEQ)" <TommasuloK@michigan.gov>
Subject: FW: Comment sought on Rep. Phelps Files Suit Against State of Michigan, City of Flint

Need to make sure I understand the full background and story on this.

From: Gary Ridley [mailto:GRIDLEY@mlive.com]
 Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 1:39 PM
 To: Bitely, Andrea (AG) <BitelyA@michigan.gov>; Wurfel, Sara (GOV) <Wurfels@michigan.gov>
 Subject: Comment sought on Rep. Phelps Files Suit Against State of Michigan, City of Flint

Hi,
 I wanted to see if the state had any comment in response to this lawsuit.

Thanks.

--

Gary Ridley | The Flint Journal-MLive Media Group | 810-280-9516 | gridley@mlive.com <<mailto:gridley@mlive.com>>

From: Rosemary Jones [mailto:RJones@house.mi.gov]
 Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 1:33 PM
 To: Rosemary Jones
 Subject: Rep. Phelps Files Suit Against State of Michigan, City of Flint

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 Monday, Oct. 12, 2015

Contact: Rep. Phil Phelps
 Phone: (517) 373-7515

Rep. Phelps Files Suit Against State of Michigan, City of Flint
 State, city failed to release documents sought in FOIA request
 LANSING — State Representative Phil Phelps (D-Flushing) announced earlier today that he is filing suit against the state of Michigan and the city of Flint to force them to release public documents he requested last month under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
 “It’s an absolute shame that I have to file suit to force our government to comply with the law,” Phelps said. “I was shocked at their response, because prior to receiving the denials, officials

from both the city and state had told me that not only did documents exist, but they would be happy to share them with me.”

On Sept. 4 of this year, Phelps requested that the city and state turn over all documents and emails regarding the permit and application process that Flint's emergency manager was required to complete before the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality gave the go ahead to the city to start using the Flint River as its source of drinking water. Late last month, the state and the city both denied Phelps' request, saying that no such documents exist.

In March and April of 2014, officials from both the city and state were also quoted in several articles on Mlive.com, making comments about the permit application process for Flint to switch its source of drinking water from Detroit's system to the Flint River.

“I want to know what these officials knew about the safety and quality of the river water before the switch was made. Judging by their response and recent actions, it almost seems they knew a lot more than they are letting on to,” Phelps said. “Flint residents deserve better than this, they deserve to know the truth about the decisions that were made, and if I have to fight this in court to get the truth, so be it.”

###

Rosie Jones
Deputy Press Secretary
Michigan House Democrats
O: 517.373.3731
C: PPI
housedems.com