

City of Toledo
Office of
Councilman D. Michael Collins
One Government Center, Suite 2140
Toledo, Ohio 43604
MEDIA RELEASE
November 26, 2012

On October 16, 2012, I requested the Michael P. Bell Mayoral administration answer 17 outstanding referrals that I had made during the course of 2012 that were not responded to. I had asked for the answers to be provided by October 26, 2012, what is shared below was provided on November 20, 2012, only after stating a mandamus action was going to be filed to demand material that is within the realm of public information be shared.

Other members of council also have outstanding referrals that have not been answered, including one from Councilman George Sarantou which is included since it was made in conjunction with referrals that I made. The responses concerning the purchase of a Chevy Tahoe and GMC Terrain for use by the Mayor's office with funding legislated for the use of equipment for Streets, Bridges and Harbor department are especially troubling. I have asked that the Ohio Auditor look into this expenditure.

I ask that you look at the questions that were asked, then look at the answers that were provided. Most of the answers are non-responsive and do not provide the information that residents of our City deserve to have.

Communication and transparency are critical elements for successful government. There is a troubling pattern of withholding information, providing incorrect information or partial information from the Bell administration. This creates unnecessary conflict and time wasted by both council and the administration and frankly, given Mayor Bell's campaign promise of treating members of Council like a board of directors would be unacceptable behavior in the business world as it should be in government.

Referral numbers, dates, referral question asked, and the responses are below, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at my office (419-245-1050) or my cell (419-392-3791).

8. 1/15/2012 Due January 27

RE: Fork lift truck missing from inventory for NBA Program - Please provide the original purchase order, the work orders and records and all internal emails concerning the acquisition, serial number, inventory control reports and all internal and external emails.

Response: The requested records do not exist.

12. 1/19/2012 Due January 27

Explain in a budgetary statement how Fire & Rescue Operations ended 2011 exceeding the overtime budget by 133% if the \$900,000 projected savings was achieved with the Ottawa Hills fire services implementation.

Response: Simply put, deferred payments based on 2010 Memorandums of Understandings with Fire Unions.

13. 1/19/2012 Due January 27

Provide a listing of the Mayor's Office FTE employees, by position, name and Fund, comparing 2012 with the past several years.

Response: The answer can be found in the 2013 budget detail and in past budgets.

40. 2/14/2012 Due February 24

What was response Administration received on using Police officers for dog control services?

Response: The Administration believes our Police Officers have higher priorities than chasing dogs.

75. 3/22/2012 Due March 30

Please provide a copy of the contract with Mannik & Smith for working remediation work being done at the river front area of the Marina District involving moving dirt as part of the planned phytoremediation project.

Response: The Department of Public Utilities will answer this under separate cover.

117. 4/10/12 Due April 20

How many assignments per month for the first 3 months of this year have been at Station 21 to go outside their district to do "mop-up" outside their district?

Response: There are five designated fire companies that are utilized for overhaul purposes that come from less busier months.

202. 6/21/2012 Due June 29

In response to previous Referral answers, has the City of Toledo paid Steve Cady through an employment agency and if so, how much was paid in total to Mr. Cady yearly for 2010, 2011 and the year to date for 2012.

Response: This referral was answered on July 2, 2012.

235. 7/26/12 Due August 10

Show the amount of property tax paid to the City of Toledo per average \$100,000 home

Response: There is no one answer as tax payments vary based on which of the six school districts a Toledo property owner resides in, and whether the street is improved or unimproved.

236. 7/26/12 Due August 10

How much did we get from the State in Local Government Fund in 2012 and what is projected for 2013 and factor in the change in property tax value, estate tax phase out to give an estimate on the budget reduction in revenue for 2013. Net receipts from State '12 projected out in '13.

Response: See 3013 Proposed Budget Document

246. 8/14/12 Due August 24

How many vacant beds in the Lucas County jail nightly that City pays for?

Response: The administration will request this information from Lucas County, and, if the information is provided, answer under separate cover.

247. 8/14/12 Due August 24

How many employees are being covered under the requested increased unemployment compensation appropriation of \$165,000?

Response: The Department of Finance will answer this under separate cover.

280. 8/30/12 Due September 14

Has any revenue been collected from the licensing of internet sweepstake cafes and if so, how much? What have we done as far as enforcement, how many businesses have been shut down due to lack of compliance?

Response: The Department of Finance will answer this under separate cover.

282. 8/30/12 Due September 14

Where is vehicle with a license number FDR 5924? (Ord. 253-10 but not listed). Chevy Tahoe with luxury package (Ord. 7-12) was not listed in ordinance. What is the justification for luxury packages, what purpose the vehicles are being used, where the vehicles currently are located.

283.* 8/30/12 Due September 14 (*Made by Councilman Sarantou, coincides with 282 & 284)

RE: 2 SUV vehicles (Chevy Tahoe and GMC Terrain) purchased by the Administration – What Fund were they purchased from and are they a legitimate use of those Funds? Were they legally purchased? Were they authorized by ordinance?

Response to both: The vehicles were legally purchased.

284. 9/4/2012 Due September 14

How many times has the GMC Terrain been used for dignitaries and investors? How many miles are on this vehicle? Has it actually been used for street cleaning since it came from that Fund? What percentage of time has it been used for street cleaning?

Response: the Administration does not keep such records.

299. 9/18/12 Due September 28

Over the life of the current collective bargaining agreement for each respective bargaining unit, what is the total concession percentage over the life of each respective contract?

Response: the total savings across all funds was \$13.4 million.

302. 9/20/12 Due September 28

Provide a breakdown of revenues and expenditures for Navy Week. Provide itemized statement as to who contributed and amounts, what was expended and by who, and if money was expended by the City, was it reimbursed. Who was ultimately responsible for what costs?

Response: The Administration responded to a public records request from Councilman Collins for information on expenditures. The City will be fully reimbursed by private donations for all costs incurred to support Navy Week 2012. If any member of Council wants the Administration to cease current discussions about a possible Navy Week return in 201, please advise us so that we can so inform the Navy.

304. 9/20/12 Due September 28

How many other municipalities operate on two (2) free standing SAP systems independent of each other?

Response: See answer to Referral 288-12.