

Open Records Request For Rick Mohrig & Lisa Cauley

Tim Becker <tabecker1@hotmail.com>

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To:rick.mohrig@miltonga.gov <rick.mohrig@miltonga.gov>;Tammy Lowit <tammy.lowit@miltonga.gov>

Cc:Ken Jarrard <kjarrard@jarrard-davis.com>;peyton.jamison@cityofmiltonga.us

<peyton.jamison@cityofmiltonga.us>;Steven Krokoff

<steven.krokoff@miltonga.gov>;carol.cookerly@miltonga.gov <carol.cookerly@miltonga.gov>

Mr. Mohrig and Ms. Lowit:

I am copying Ken Jarrard because there might be some legal issues involved in my request. I am copying Mr. Jamison and Mr. Krokoff in their capacities as mayor and city manager. (Also, it seems Mr. Krokoff was aware of Ms. Cauley being assigned elections action items and perhaps even assigned Ms. Cauley elections action items.) I am including Ms. Lowit on the To: line because I think she would be the government official to retrieve records from Ms. Cauley. I am copying Council Member Cookerly because she appears to be the only council member that seems to understand the many “encumbrances” and “burdens” that have been created by the City’s process for designing, planning, and running its election—perhaps including the issues discussed herein . . . encumbrances and burdens that put the city in a precarious position.

Consider this email my Open Records Request (ORR) to 1) Mr. Mohrig and Ms. Cauley and 2) to the City for any documents that would define Ms. Cauley’s official responsibilities to the City. This would include any documents assigning Ms. Cauley elections tasks.

Let me provide some context. **At the July 24th city council meeting, Council Member Mohrig stated that Milton’s self-running its elections would save Milton \$250,000. Ms. Cauley stated that Milton would save at least \$200,000. I assume both Mohrig and Cauley had documents in their possession at the time of their statements that would substantiate their savings claims. It is these documents that I am seeking with this ORR.** Mohrig and Cauley’s savings projections do not comport with savings projects from the Elections Feasibility Committee’s (EFC) December presentation nor any refined savings projections I’ve seen since the EFC’s presentation.

I am including Ms. Cauley because she has been assigned an election task by Council Member Mohrig. (This was discovered through my previous ORRs in a text exchange between Mohrig.) Furthermore, these same ORRs indicate that Mr. Krokoff might have been assigning elections actions items to Ms. Cauley. Accordingly, **it would seem Ms. Cauley was operating in an official capacity** for the City as either an employee or vendor or citizen volunteer (with defined responsibilities and obligations . . . not unlike a member of any of Milton’s volunteer committees). **As such, I believe Ms. Cauley is subject to Georgia’s transparency laws and should be required to provide records responsive to this request.** Additionally, it is worth noting that both Mohrig and Cauley were both members of the EFC.

I also request the City to provide all documents that defined Ms. Cauley’s responsibilities associated with her assignment of elections actions from the time the Elections Feasibility Committee was disbanded to receipt of this ORR (July 28th). This would include all communications assigning her elections action items.

In closing, I am troubled the City’s use of citizen volunteers (especially partisan activists) in quasi-official roles, especially in the accomplishment of critical city functions, like the design and planning of elections. Does Milton’s municipal code provide definitions or

guidelines for the use of such quasi-official actors? Are such individuals subject to Milton's ethics code? Is the City liable for their behavior in their accomplishment of assigned tasks? Are these individuals subject to other City rules and regulations? Can the City honestly assert that such individuals are just private citizens?

Lastly, **I am troubled by City Council members directing citizen-volunteers, particularly partisan activists, in accomplishment of critical elections tasks.** I simply don't understand this level of intrusion and partisanship in our democratic institutions and in everyday operations of the City. **I believe such behavior is a clear-and-present danger to the integrity of our elections. I further believe the City has an obligation to publicly and forcefully address these dangers.** Lastly, given 1) all of the problems associated with design and planning of elections and 2) the involvement/complicity of so many top government officials, I believe **serious consideration needs to be given to hiring and independent external investigator to objectively scrutinize the city's actions in this designing and planning its elections.**

Respectfully,

Tim Becker

Note: I do have Ms. Cauley's email address but have chosen not to include her on this request out of an abundance of caution.