



STATEMENT FROM THE CITY OF CEDAR HILLS
OCTOBER 23, 2013

Where inaccurate or incorrect information is publicly advanced, the City feels it is in the interest of the community to provide an accurate and correct summary. Recently, statements made on a public website present inaccurate or incomplete information regarding a recent GRAMA request. The City wishes to address those statements.

Statement: Our understanding is that the City is not interested in negotiating timing, content, quantity or delivery approach of our October 1st GRAMA request, instead suggesting that we file a new GRAMA request.

The City is very interested in negotiating with Mr. Cromar, which is why the City agreed to participate in a phone call with him and the Utah State Records Ombudsman. However, the City must comply with State law with regards to GRAMA requests. State law requires the City to not release any records that are considered private, controlled, or protected. Just as the City is required to provide public records when requested, it is required to keep confidential any records that should be classified as protected, as outlined by GRAMA law. At no time has the City refused to work with Mr. Cromar and has always been willing to discuss with him, or anyone else, any GRAMA request that is filed. Mr. Cromar has suggested that the City give him open access to all emails to and from members of the City Council and members of staff. As some of these emails contain protected information, this is not a request that can be granted.

Statement: We believe that providing the public documents clearly serves the public interest and should be provided for free.

As Mr. Cromar is aware from his last GRAMA request for emails, it is costly and time consuming to gather and separate each email sent and received for this many people over the timeframe he is requesting. It is fair for the requestor to pay the cost of compiling these records instead of the tax payers of Cedar Hills. While Mr. Cromar claims to represent a group called "Cedar Hills Citizens for Responsible Government" Mr. Cromar will not disclose who else, if anyone, is part of this group and the City is unaware of who belongs to this group. In the absence of such information, the City must assume Mr. Cromar makes this request for himself. Additionally, members of staff and the Council have heard from many residents who have expressed strong opposition to using tax dollars for his GRAMA requests, which appear calculated to advance his own, personal political ambitions. Much of the cost of this GRAMA request will be borne by the City; however, Mr. Cromar will be required to pay the cost of compilation. In 2012 Mr. Cromar filed a similar GRAMA request and asked the Utah State Records Committee to require the City to provide email records to him at no cost. The Records Committee denied his request and stated he would need to prepay before the City was required to perform any work on the request. The City is following the same protocol this time around.

Statement: As done last year, once the public record is obtained we intend to share and publish it for the public.

Once a GRAMA request has been compiled and provided, it is scanned into the City document system and made available to the public. These can be found on the City's website at www.cedarhills.org/public-records.

Statement: We believe that a public record that is properly maintained and easily accessible to the public, not only protects the taxpayers from potentially bad government action, but it also protects the government officials from their own questionable decisions by just knowing the public may ultimately become aware of their words and deeds.

Mr. Cromar filed a similar request last year and obtained twelve months of emails between members of the Council and the former city manager. At no time did he find any evidence of illegal or unethical activity. Mr. Cromar continues to try to portray public staff and officials in a negative light and requests that tax dollars be used to fund his search for something he has yet to find. City officials and staff all take their positions seriously and fulfill their obligations with care and integrity. It is unfortunate that Mr. Cromar continues with his course of action that ultimately only hurts the tax payers of Cedar Hills.

For additional information or for media inquiries please contact Jenney Rees at 801-358-8730 or via email at jrees@cedarhills.org.

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