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City of Margaret  
Margaret City Hall  
Attn: Honorable Mayor Matt Tortorice  
825 Woodland Circle  
Odenville, Alabama 35120  
Phone: (205) 629-5501

Re: Open Records Request by Dr. Gloria Haynes on behalf of Margaret  
Concerned Citizens ("MCC")

February 26, 2026

Dear Mayor Tortorice:

My name is Eric Hutchins. I am writing this letter on behalf of my clients Dr. Gloria Haynes and the organization , Margaret Concerned Citizens ("MCC"). The purpose of this letter is to make a formal written request pursuant to the Alabama Open Records Act. This letter/request is being written to you in your official capacity as mayor for the City of Margaret. I ask that a copy of the request be copied to members of the city council.

It has come to the attention of my clients Dr. Gloria Haynes and "MCC" that since the inception of your tenure as mayor for the City of Margaret, the community has expressed deep concern on issues relating to the City of Margaret's budget, finance, personnel decisions (ie. Hiring, retention, and termination). To that end, several citizens have made formal requests for records pursuant to the Alabama Open Records Act. However, it has come to my clients' attention that you have failed and refused to produce items requested under the Alabama Open Records Act. My clients' aim is to assure that in the governance of Margaret's citizens that there be transparence, accountability, and civility. Such noble aspirations can only be adhered to if elected officials adhere to the letter and spirit of the law.

To that end, this letter serves both as a request for records and a means of putting the City of Margaret on notice of my clients' concerns with what at close glance appears to be an unprecedented depletion of municipal funds to the tune of 2.5 million dollars in a two-month period. Furthermore, the City of Margaret during the three-month tenure of Mayor Tortorice has made personnel decisions that scoff in the face of federal equal employment laws, fairness, and logic. Since Mayor Tortorice's tenure, he has managed to terminate Margaret's first African American police chief (Chief Anthony Fields) along with the Assistant Fire Chief (Troynell Nieves) who is also African American. Mayor Tortorice went on to terminate a third African American when he terminated Teja McIntyre as municipal clerk. What makes Mayor Tortorice employment decisions so concerning is the fact that Mayor Tortorice during this tenure has only hired white police officers.

Furthermore, my clients are especially concerned about the purchase of police vehicles. Noticeably, there has been a purchase of police vehicles for the City of Margaret which have greatly increase expenditures for the City of Margaret. Yet there is concern as to when the contract or note for the purchase of police vehicles was entered into with the City of Margaret. More specifically, did the purchase of the police vehicles occurred prior to the approval of the city council. Along the lines of fiscal responsibility and personnel decisions, Mayor Tortorice hired one officer employed with the City of Springville. Following the hiring of that officer, Mayor Tortorice attempted to have the City of Margaret to pay the City of Springville \$20,000.00 for the training the officer received at the police academy. Additionally, Mayor Tortorice has hired an officer with a pending criminal case in Madison County.

Thus, my clients make their requests with the intent to see that full compliance with the Alabama Open Records Act be honored. To that end Dr. Gloria Haynes, who serves as President of Margaret Concerned Citizens ("MCC"), and the Margaret Concerned Citizens ("MCC") requests the following records. (a). An itemized description and balance for all accounts and funds for the City of Margaret immediately preceding

the tenure of Mayor Matt Tortorice; (b). Disclose the balance of the City Margaret's General Fund Account for the month of October of 2025; (c). Disclose the rank, salary, and wage for the position of newly hired police officers, including the Chief of Police, during the tenure of Mayor Matt Totorice; (d). Provide records and results of all audits of the City of Margaret accounts from 2015 to 2025; (e). Provide all records of postings for the position of police officer and Chief of Police that would support the City of Margaret only hiring white police officers in the tenure of Mayor Matt Totorice; (f). Provide the Employment Handbook for the City of Margaret that was in effect for the years 2020 to the present date.

I have attached to his letter/request the City of Margaret completed forms that support the items and records requested herein. Please let me know the costs for the production of the records requested. Also if there are any questions then you can contact me in writing at the following email address: [hutchlaw07@gmail.com](mailto:hutchlaw07@gmail.com) .

Sincerely and In the Name of Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric Tavaris Hutchins".

Eric Tavaris Hutchins, Esq.

**PUBLIC RECORD REQUEST**

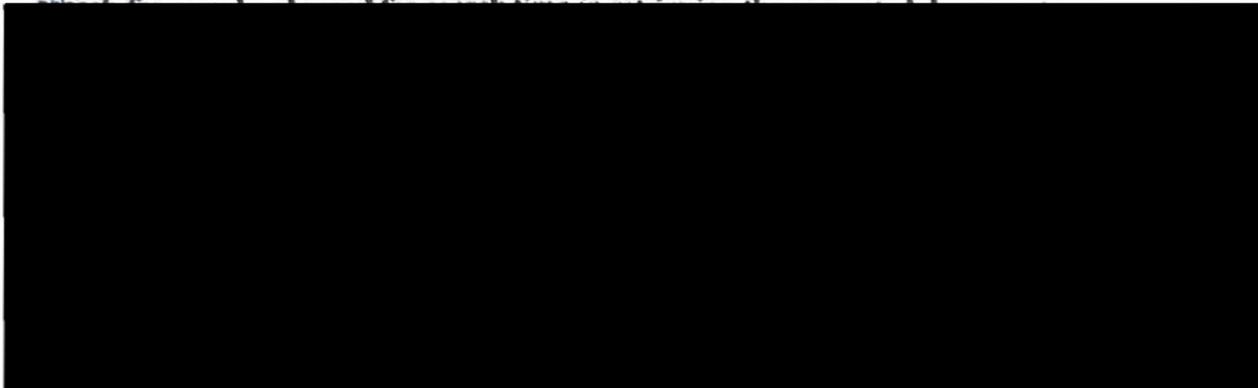
TO: The City Clerk of the City of Margaret, Alabama.

The undersigned wishes to examine the following public records of the City of Margaret.

See Attached Letter, page 2-3: Items A-F

The purpose of this examination is: To obtain records for public interest

I recognize that the city must provide security of public records and must make available an employee of the city during the examination of such records. I understand there is a charge for requested copies, as set forth in the schedule below. I agree to pay the fee for the copies as this policy sets out. A reasonable



**RESPONSE TO PUBLIC RECORD REQUEST**

You may come to our office at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock a.m. / p.m. on \_\_\_\_\_ to review the request documents.

City Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RECORD OF PUBLIC RECORDS COPIED AND RELEASED**

Number of copies received \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_

Description of copies received:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Remit to: The City of Margaret  
Attn: City Clerk  
PO BOX 309  
Margaret, Al 35112  
Telephone: 205-629-5742

Copies provided by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_