

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by )  
Scott M. Bushnell, Complainant ) Report of Hearing Officer  
against ) Docket #FIC76-148  
City and Town of Meriden and ) September 22 , 1976  
Mayor of the City and Town of  
Meriden, Respondents )

The above captioned matter was heard as a contested case on September 14, 1976, at which time the complainant and the respondents appeared and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found:

1. The respondents are public agencies.
2. By letter dated August 17, 1976 the complainant requested of the respondent mayor the right to inspect and copy the computer printout sheets concerning the 1975-76 municipal budget and the accompanying figures for July 1976, the first month of the 1976-1977 municipal budget.
3. By letter dated August 23, 1976, respondent mayor denied the above request.
4. By letter of complainant filed with this Commission on August 25, 1976, the complainant alleged that this denial was in violation of P.A. 75-342.
5. The respondent mayor contends that the computer printout sheets are preliminary drafts or notes that are exempt from disclosure pursuant to §2(b)(1) of P.A. 75-342. The respondent mayor proposes to disclose these documents only after he checks them against the city auditor's reports and only after they reflect the subsequent income and expenditures of each department.
6. It is found that the computer printout sheets are in the custody of the respondent mayor.
7. It is found that the requested documents are public records.

8. It is further found that the requested public records are not preliminary drafts or notes within the meaning of §2(b)(1) of P.A. 75-342. They are a complete and finished compilation of the most current figures concerning each department's income and expenditures. They stand independently of subsequent compilations that take into account subsequent bills and indirect revenue dating back to prior months with the consequent adjustment and finalization of department figures.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record and findings concerning the above captioned complaint:

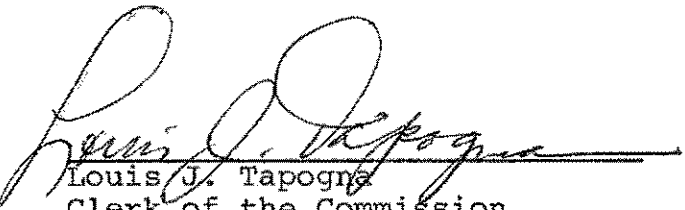
1. The respondent mayor shall forthwith provide access to the complainant to inspect or copy each of the requested computer printout sheets.

2. Nothing herein shall be construed as indicating bad faith in this matter on the part of the respondent mayor.

  
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Commissioner Judith Lahey

as Hearing Officer

Approved by order of the Freedom of Information Commission  
on October 13, 1976.

  
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Louis J. Tapogna  
Clerk of the Commission