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June 19, 2015

Robert E. Wilson, Esq.
Wilson, Morton & Downs LLC
Two Decatur TownCenter
125 Clairemont Avenue
Suite 420
Decatur, Georgia 30030

RE: *Open Records Act Complaint regarding the City Schools of Decatur*

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I am writing to you in your capacity as the attorney for the City Schools of Decatur, regarding a complaint from Dan Whisenhunt, editor of the Decaturish.com website. Mr. Whisenhunt alleges that the school system has violated the Open Records Act by failing to release a copy of the contract for the purchase of real property on Talley Street. Mr. Whisenhunt notes that many details of the contract have already been released, both to the press and to the public, and therefore there is no actual need to keep the contract itself confidential.

Under Georgia law the Attorney General, as an independent constitutional officer, has the discretionary authority to enforce the Open Records Act. O.C.G.A. § 50-18-73(a). The Attorney General has chosen to exercise that discretion by establishing a mediation program where citizens may raise issues and concerns with us regarding the Acts and we will attempt to resolve disputes, if possible. This office also reserves the right to civilly and criminally prosecute such matters where it deems doing so is appropriate.

I am not aware of all the circumstances surrounding the allegations, and I am not assuming the school system violated the law. I ask the school system to provide a response to the allegations within the next 10 days.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER COLANGELO
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure

cc: Dan Whisenhunt (without enclosures)