

The Herald-Mail Company

100 Summit Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21740 | Phone: 304-262-8876 | Fax: 1-301-714-0245

December 4, 2019

Attn: Town Clerk
Corporation of Harpers Ferry
1000 Washington St.
P.O. Box 217
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425

Dear Town Clerk:

Under the West Virginia Freedom of Information Act, §29-B-1-1 et seq., I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records for

- (a) How many billable hours have been received by the Corporation of Harpers Ferry from attorney Euphemia "Effie" Kallas for all legal matters from the June 11, 2019 municipal election to the date of this request?
- (b) How many billable hours have been received by the Corporation of Harpers Ferry from attorney Euphemia "Effie" Kallas for all legal matters from January 1, 2019 to June 10, 2019?
- (b) How much compensation has Effie Kallas received from Jan. 1, 2019 to June 10, 2019 and from Jan. 11 to the date of this request?
- (c) How much of the compensation and billable hours received relates to any and all 2019 municipal election-related matters since June 11, including the legal action taken in Jefferson County Circuit Court and the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia?
- (d) Who is paying the legal expenses for the elected town council members and former member council member (Hardwick Johnson, Charlotte Thompson, Marjorie Yost, Barbara Humes, Christian Pechuekonis) who have been named in the pending litigation that is linked to the 2020 municipal election?
- (e) Who has contributed toward retaining legal counsel (J. Zak Ritchie) and related legal expenses incurred by the elected town council members (and former member) named in the pending litigation related to the 2020 municipal election?
- (f) How many billable hours have been received by the Corporation of Harpers Ferry from Ms. Kallas related to the Hill Top Hotel project?

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$ 25. However, I would also like to request a waiver of all fees in that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the actions of the county government via my work as a news reporter for The Herald-Mail Co. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes.

The West Virginia Freedom of Information Act requires a response to this request be made within five business days. If access to the records I am requesting will take longer than this amount of time, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law.

Thank you for considering my request. If you have any questions, please call me at 304-262-8876.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Umstead
The Herald-Mail
Martinsburg Bureau
mumstead@herald-mail.com