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COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, CHAIRMAN
NORTHWEST DELEGATION

Ethan Imhoff, City Manager
City of Johnstown
401 Main Street
Johnstown, PA 15901

December 12, 2022

Re: Right-to-Know request regarding ARP grant recipient scoring system

Mr. Imhoff:

Please consider this an official request for information under the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know (Open Records) Law. As you know, questions have arisen from the community over the process the city employed to distribute million of dollars of American Rescue Plan grant money.

Some entities that applied for grant funding were successful, others were not. To date, the best explanation for how this was determined has been put forth by Johnstown assistant city manager Alex Ashcom, who told WJAC in a televised interview that, "Myself, (finance director, Robert) Ritter, and (community and economic development director, John) Dubnansky put all of that all together in a review packet to objectively score each organization that applied."

To bring illumination to this selection process – which many in the community are demanding – I am requesting that you provide me with:

- 1. Copies of any and all documents – including the “review packet” referenced by Mr. Ashcom – that deal with the scoring, ranking, selection or rejection of applicants that was used to decide Johnstown’s disbursement of American Rescue Plan grant money.**
- 2. Copies of any and all correspondence – including but not limited to emails – sent to or from Ashcom, Ritter and/or Dubnansky, regarding the scoring ranking, selection or rejection of ARP grant applicants.**

Although I am not required to state a reason for making this information request, I will tell you that its sole purpose is letting the public know the process used by city government to award substantial amounts of federal grant money derived from taxpayer dollars. I hope that you and others in city government share my belief that it is their right to know this information.

If you desire any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Also, if you choose not to comply with this request, please state your legal objection in writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Burns".

State Rep. Frank Burns
72nd Legislative District, PA House of Representatives