



Margaret Blank &lt;therealpoop.org@gmail.com&gt;

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**Monroe County animal control public records request.**

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**Margaret Blank** <therealpoop.org@gmail.com>

Sat, Feb 3, 2018 at 9:24 AM

To: Shillinger-Bob &lt;Shillinger-Bob@monroecounty-fl.gov&gt;

Cc: Eables-Patricia &lt;Eables-Patricia@monroecounty-fl.gov&gt;, Bradley-Brian &lt;Bradley-Brian@monroecounty-fl.gov&gt;

Ahhh...this should come in very handy. Thank you.

It seems the county officials responsible for documents related to animal control are not living up to the county's "strict" requirements. They've been unable to produce the following documents in response to a public records request submitted on 12/29/2017.

1. Audited financial statements from SUFA for the years 2009-2011.
2. Audited financial statements from SHARK for the years 2014-2015.

As you well know, FKSPCA was recently awarded a new contract to run the Marathon shelter under suspicious circumstances. That award broadsided the taxpayers with a \$175,000 annual price increase. As of today, there is no justification for that increase except for the unverified claim that no historical cost information existed and the shelter cost more to run than FKSPCA realized. Hmmm....

The shelter operators are required by contract to provide audited financial statements each year. How is it possible that FKSPCA would not know that? How could they not have some idea of the true cost of running the shelter going in? Besides, SHARK's response to a 2016 audit indicates that costs were around \$280,000. Not anywhere near \$425,000.

The documents I'm requesting would show a full cost history over the tenure of three shelter operators. In other words, these documents would be able to verify (or refute) FKSPCA's claims. Taxpayers are entitled to this information.

You also know, because I've copied you on the emails, that the county staff responsible for these documents seems unwilling or unable to provide them. That's a major concern. It would appear that county staff is, at best, extremely careless with public records, and, at worst, intentionally violating state law to prevent damaging information about the RFP from coming to light. Either situation is unacceptable. Legal concerns aside, it also gives the impression that county staff made no attempt to determine actual costs before awarding the new contract at the inflated price. That is negligence, plain and simple.

If the county is truly serious about compliance with public records law, then I would expect to see the remaining documents very soon.

Margaret Blank

On Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 10:22 AM, Shillinger-Bob <Shillinger-Bob@monroecounty-fl.gov> wrote:

Margaret:

Attached please find the county's policies on handling of public records, which you requested yesterday. As for information on public records training, I have attached two representative samples of presentations that I have used as training materials when providing such training.

Note, since training is done in multiple settings by different staff members, there are similar presentations that other attorneys have adapted for their presentations. Individual departments may have conducted their own training as well. Producing all training materials would require the extensive use of staff time to gather that information. Please let me know if you wish to see all training materials. If so, I will calculate a good faith estimate of the time necessary to gather those materials and the costs associated with conducting that research. Under

state law and county policy, the county is entitled to charge for that research time and receive a deposit in the amount of the good faith estimate before conducting that research.

Please let me know how you wish to proceed.

Bob



Bob Shillinger  
County Attorney  
Monroe County Attorney's Office  
1111 12th Street, Suite 408  
Key West, FL 33040

(305) 292-3470

(305) 292-3516 (facsimile)

**From:** Margaret Blank [mailto:[therealpoop.org@gmail.com](mailto:therealpoop.org@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 01, 2018 8:00 AM

**To:** LoSacco-Tina <LoSacco-Tina@MonroeCounty-FL.Gov>; Shillinger-Bob <Shillinger-Bob@MonroeCounty-FL.Gov>

**Cc:** Wilson-Kevin <Wilson-Kevin@MonroeCounty-FL.Gov>

**Subject:** Re: Monroe County animal control public records request.

Tina,

When do you suppose the remaining documents might be available?

Bob,

Please forward the county's policy on the handling of public records. Also any information on training for county staff and contractors when it comes to compliance with the public records law. Unfortunately, county staff does not seem to take their obligations very seriously. Neither do county contractors. It seems like ensuring that people understand the law would be your responsibility, yes?

Thanks in advance,

Margaret

On Fri, Jan 26, 2018 at 1:57 PM, LoSacco-Tina <[LoSacco-Tina@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:LoSacco-Tina@monroecounty-fl.gov)> wrote:

Ms. Blank:

I would like to apologize that it took longer to respond than was initially anticipated, but it took a while to gather the documents. I was trying to compile all the documents requested to send at one time rather than responding to your request in several responses.

Please find attached the financial audits that I have for Shark and the FKSPCA. FKSPCA's 2016 report is late. I have followed-up and it is expected that we will have 2016 in a few weeks. I will forward to you a copy when I receive it.

I do not have a report for Shark for either 2014 or 2015. Nor do I have any of the years requested for SUFA.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Tina LoSacco

Senior Technician – Engineering/Wastewater

Animal Control

Monroe County BOCC

KW – [305-292-4426](tel:305-292-4426)

Marathon – [305-289-6051](tel:305-289-6051)

Cell – [305-304-9458](tel:305-304-9458)

1100 Simonton St., Suite 2-216

Key West, FL. 33040

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We are borrowing it from our children.

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Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communication to or from the County are public record, available to the public and media upon request.

