

Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L

Subject: FW: FOIA Request submitted 10.1.2022 (shown below)
Attachments: BCSD BOD Posted RFQ for Forensic Audit 2020.pdf; July 22 2020 Special Called Board Meeting Approved.pdf

From: Matthews, Delores R <Delores.Matthews@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 4:44 PM
To: jpauldupre@gmail.com
Cc: Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Cartledge, Wendy B <Wendy.Cartledge@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Subject: FOIA Request submitted 10.1.2022 (shown below)

Dear Mr. DuPre,

In compliance with the FOIA you submitted to Beaufort County School District on October 1, 2022 (shown below), we replied October 5, 2022, and sent the Beaufort County School District Contract with JAG. We received an email from you concerning the FOIA reply on October 5, 2022, in which you asked additional questions to be answered at that time. Your questions are stated herein:

"...was Jaramillo selected by competitive bid? If not by competitive bid, what was the selection process?" You also stated, "Jaramillo Accounting is located in New Mexico, and the Beaufort school district is the only client they list on the East coast. What I need to determine is how they came to Beaufort school district's attention, and what prompted their selection?"

Per the procurement code that was active during the time these audit services were procured:

Article III Organization: H. Contracts for Certain Services.

Authority to Contract for Auditing or Accounting Services. (SC Code § 11-35-1250; SC Reg. § 19-445-2025(E), Board Governance EL8.9) No contract for auditing or accounting services shall be awarded without the approval of the Board or Superintendent.


Article IV Source Selection and Contract Information: A. Methods of Source Selection. (SC Code § 11-35-1510)

1. Competitive Sealed Bidding Exceptions. Unless an exception is provided by this Code, District contracts shall be awarded by competitive sealed bidding. Exceptions, as more fully described in this Code, include:
 - Authority to Contract for Auditing or Accounting Services (III.H.1)

Per the previous procurement thresholds active during the time this Request for Qualifications was issued, procurements between \$10,000.01 and \$50,000 were required to be advertised as a "Request for Quotes" to receive bids from interested firms.

Auditing services do not require a competitive sealed bid because 1) the services were not over \$50,000 and 2) auditing services are exempt from the competitive sealed bidding process. For transparency and the need for quality services, a Request for Qualifications was issued to ensure fiscal responsibility for the procurement of a responsive and responsible bidder. Had the Request for Qualifications not been issued and a Request for Quotes (the minimum requirement for this specific requirement) been issued in its place, the BOE would have been forced to choose the lowest bidder. The Request for Qualifications allowed for the evaluation of proposals to determine which firm would be most qualified to perform the audit.

Finally, please note that Beaufort County School District is not the only client that JAG has on the east coast; the forensic accounting firm also has serviced a school district in Columbia, South Carolina. The information contained herein, along with the two additional attachments, should fully answer the final questions you had on this FOIA and the additional email you sent me. Thank you.

 **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request Form**

Name:	Paul DuPre
Address:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Home Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
E-mail Address:	[REDACTED]
Public Records Requested (Description of Documents or Information Requested):	<p>The Jaramillo Accounting Group LLC lists Beaufort County (SC) School District as one of their clients.</p> <p>https://www.jag.cpa/</p> <p>Please accept this as a FOIA request for a copy of the contract(s) for services between the Beaufort County School District and Jaramillo Accounting.</p> <p>Also, was Jaramillo selected by competitive bid? If not by competitive bid, what was the selection process?</p> <p>Electronic response by email is preferred and appreciated. Please let me know if you need further info.</p> <p>Also, please advise in advance if there will be any charge for this public information.</p> <p>Thank you, Paul DuPre [REDACTED]</p>

Kindest regards,

Dee Matthews
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Beaufort County School District
Delores.Matthews@k12.sc.us

