



June 29, 2026

City of Bessemer
Clerk's Office
Attn: Wanda D. Taylor, Rickeal Gray
1700 3rd Avenue North
Bessemer, Alabama 35020

Emails: wdtaylor@bessemeral.org, rndavis@bessemeral.org

Re: NAACP September 26, 2025, Open Records Request

Ms. Taylor and Mr. Gray,

We write in follow-up to our email of June 12, 2026. As explained in that email, we represent the Alabama State Conference of the NAACP. Our client and the National NAACP submitted a "Request for Access to Public Records" (hereinafter "RAPR") to the City of Bessemer on or about September 16, 2025. That RAPR requested, *inter alia*:

1. "All written communications that discuss policies, practices, and procedures regarding the following items from September 1, 2023, through September 15, 2025: a. Logistics Land Investments Data Center [and] b. Project Marvel."
2. "All documents establishing agreements or informal arrangements that the City Council or any members of the City Council have entered into regarding Logistics Land Investments Data Center or 'Project Marvel'."
3. "All written communications that discuss public meetings regarding Logistics Land Investments Data Center or 'Project Marvel' from September 1, 2023, through September 15, 2025."

After prompting, the NAACP national office and state conference received a response from your office on January 7, 2026. The City of Bessemer's response contained approximately 32 pages of records in total. That 32-page response included references to policies, practices, and procedures arguably within the scope of RAPR Request #1, but not the policies themselves. Based on our review, the City of Bessemer provided no documents in connection with RAPR Request #2. Regarding Request #3, the City did provide zoning and planning minutes and other documents, but no internal communications regarding such meetings or logistics. It also appears that all documents regarding Request #3 originated with the zoning and planning commission (i.e., there were no responsive documents from other agencies like the City Council).

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

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On June 12, 2026, we emailed your office seeking clarification as to whether January 7, 2026, production was the complete response to NAACP's records request or whether the City intended to produce additional documents at a later date. We also requested information as to whether any documents had been withheld pursuant to any claimed privileges and, if documents had been withheld, requested that the City provide an appropriate log or index. To date, we have received no response to our June 12, 2026, email.

In an effort to resolve these issues short of litigation, we are making a final request for the following information:

- Whether the City intends to provide any additional documents in connection with the September 26, 2025, RAPR.
- Verification that the City either does not have, or is unwilling to produce, documents responsive to RAPR Request #2; the actual policies and procedures countenanced by RAPR Request #1 and internal communications regarding same; any documents beyond those generated by zoning and planning that are responsive to Requests 1 through 3; and any internal communications relating to RAPR Request #3.
- Whether the City has withheld, or intends to withhold, documents under a claim of privilege or other justification. If so, we request the City provide an appropriate index or log itemizing such withholdings.

We request the courtesy of a response to this correspondence by July 3, 2026. If we do not hear from the City by that date we will take other appropriate actions in accordance with law.

Again, we would like to resolve this issue without involving the courts. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at tgleason@nrdc.org or 202-836-9393.

Respectfully,

/s/ Todd W. Gleason

cc: Aaron Killings, City Attorney, akillings@killingspoe.com
Melina Goldfarb, Esq., melinagoldfarblaw@gmail.com