Sun-e Briefs • 2009 November

Sun-e Briefs are a service of the Sunshine Center made possible through a grant from the Knight Foundation. This monthly news update will keep you in the open-government loop by bringing you news about access issues from across the state and updates on the Sunshine Center and North Carolina Open Government Coalition. Coming to you from Elon University, home of the Sunshine Center, we think you’ll find Sun-e Briefs a valuable addition to your inbox. If you would like to contact us to let us know about a story or to remove your name from our list, please write ncopengov@elon.edu.

Sunshine Center in Action

Greensboro and Sunshine Center Join for Open Government Presentation
A workshop on best practices in requesting public records was held in partnership with the City of Greensboro on October 22. Members of the Sunshine Center’s team, the legal and administrative staff with the City of Greensboro and Elon Law professors presented on a variety of open government issues. The City of Greensboro unveiled its proposed new protocols for responding to public record inquiries. Read Greensboro’s new protocols and more about the well attended event by clicking here.

2010 Sunshine Week scheduled
The Board of Directors for the national Sunshine Week celebration has set its week-long celebration for March 14-20, 2010. The N.C. Open Government Coalition will host a workshop on Tuesday, March 16th in Greensboro at Elon Law. More details will follow in December’s Sun-e Brief.

NCOGC Board Meeting
The Board of Directors for the NCOGC meet at 11:00 a.m. December 11th at Elon Law school.

Knight Foundation Grant deadline extended
The North Carolina Open Government Coalition has received a six month extension from the Knight Foundation on its matching grant to establish an endowment to permanently support the coalition’s work. So far the generosity of individual members, companies and associations has netted 80% of the goal with $50,000 remaining to take full advantage of the $250,000 of the Knight Foundation’s matching funds. The NCOGC will work to raise the remaining funds by March 30, 2010. For information on how you can contribute to the endowment effort email ncopengov@elon.edu.

Open Government news around the state

Perdue orders look at ABC board salaries and transparency
A story on in the Wilmington’s Star-News reported that a difficult public records inquiry into the ABC’s board salaries found a wide range of disparity in pay capturing the attention of the ABC state commission and Governor Bev Perdue. The governor has ordered an inquiry into the public records compliance and the salary disparities in ABC board operations. To read the Associated Press story click here.
Beaufort Observer: Court case shows need for more effective public records law
A recent ruling in state retirement case demonstrates loophole in open government law. To read the full editorial and the challenge issued to Governor Perdue click here.

News and Observer: Golden LEAF’s oversight criticized
A state audit of the Green Leaf Foundation finds the granting process distributed more than $15 million in the dark. The audit questions the non-profits compliance with open government laws as it distributed state funds and encourages a policy overhaul to improve its economic development reporting activities. To read the full story click here.

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