

Sun-e Briefs • March 2009

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.

Coalition & Center Events

Sunshine Day March 18, Charlotte

The North Carolina Open Government Coalition has designated Wednesday, March 18, as Sunshine Day across the state, and Gov. Beverly Perdue has issued a proclamation to honor Sunshine Week March 15 – 21.

The Sunshine Center and NCOGC will hold a daylong program in Charlotte at the Levine Museum of the New South. Panels planned will showcase working systems in use to efficiently access government officials' e-mails, reporter's use of new state legislation on salary disclosures and an overview of the successes and failures of open government in recent months.

Go the NCOGC home page to register, access the Sunshine Day program, and more. The page includes links to:

Sunshine Day Registration Form
Directions to Levine Museum
Hotels near Levine Museum
Sunshine Day Program

Go to the NCOGC home page at
<http://www.ncopengov.org>

Governor declares Sunshine Week in North Carolina

Gov. Bev Perdue has declared March 15 – 21 Sunshine Week in the state. She urges all citizens to join in the observance of the week dedicated to transparency in government institutions and officials.

Follow this link to view the proclamation:
<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=935796>

Sunshine Week Media Toolkits

Local Commentaries for Sunshine Week

To help shine the spotlight on sunshine issues during Sunshine Week March 15 – 21,

the NCOGC and Sunshine Center are providing the two following commentaries that focus on issues in the North Carolina. You are free to reprint these commentaries without permission:

Transparency in State Government

By Dr. Connie Book, acting executive director, The Sunshine Center

Link to this commentary:

[Insert link to Connie's piece here](#)

State Sunshine Laws in Review

The past year has brought several sunshine issues to the forefront in North Carolina and several persist as the pressing issues under a new state administration ...

By Dr. Dale Harrison, assistant director, The Sunshine Center

Link to this commentary:

[Insert link to Dale's piece here](#)

National Sunshine Week Toolkit

Sunshine Week, sponsored by the Knight Foundation, has a range of tools available, including public service ads and graphics, commentaries and more. Visit the national Sunshine Week site at:

<http://www.sunshineweek.org/>

Access Update

Star-News files complaint seeking police video

The Star-News filed a complaint Feb. 24 against the Wilmington Police Department seeking the release of all video recordings from the car crash that killed Officer Richard Matthews on Feb. 18.

Read the Star-News story at:

<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=935553>

News-Press files request for notes in fired-workers case

Original notes taken by the investigator whose report led to the firing of nine county employees don't exist, according to a Lee County official. The News-Press filed an open records request asking for the notes North Carolina attorney Debra Ragin Jessup took when she interviewed 13 county employees about alleged racial harassment.

Read News-Press coverage at:

<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=935253>

E-mail Panel & Governor's Executive order

During his final day in office, Governor Mike Easley issued an executive order that government employee e-mails should not be deleted for 24 hours after receipt. This delay would allow the government's telecom infrastructure to preserve the e-mails as public records. The order follows the recommendations of an e-mail review panel established by the governor after his office was accused of ordering e-mail to be deleted and a subsequent suit by local media outlets. Sitting Gov. Perdue indicated that she is reviewing the order but agrees with the principle behind it.

Read more about the governor's actions at:

<http://www.newsobserver.com/politics/story/1364855.html>

<http://www.wral.com/news/state/story/2917509/>

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