



January 25, 2021

VIA ONLINE SUBMISSION

Attn: Public Records

Winston Salem University

601 S Martin Luther King Jr Dr.

Winston-Salem, NC 27110

<https://www.wssu.edu/public-records/show-records.aspx>

Re: North Carolina Public Records Law Request

To Whom it May Concern:

Pursuant to the North Carolina Public Records Law, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1 et seq., The Patriots Foundation makes the following noncommercial request to obtain copies of the following “public records,” as defined by North Carolina law,<sup>1</sup> in possession of your office or institution:

1. Documents indicating, or from which can be determined, the total number of available housing units and maximum occupancy of housing units in your institution’s residential facilities as of April 1, 2020.
2. For responsive records identified under item number 1 (above), The Patriots Foundation also requests records indicating the name, and/or the actual address, and/or GPS coordinates of the identified residential facilities.
3. Documents indicating, or from which can be determined, the total number of residents actually residing in your institution’s residential facilities on March 15, 2020.
4. Documents indicating, or from which can be determined, the total number of residents actually residing in your institution’s residential facilities on April 1, 2020.
5. For responsive records identified under item numbers 3 and 4 (above), The Patriots Foundation also requests records indicating the name, and/or actual address, and/or GPS coordinates of the identified facilities.
6. Documents indicating, or from which can be determined, the total number of residents reported to the U.S. Census Bureau on your Group Quarters Report in each of your institution’s residential facilities (omitting any identifying information about any individuals in any residential facilities).

---

<sup>1</sup> The Public Records Law defines “public records” as including all “documents, papers, letters, maps, books, photographs, films, sound recordings, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data-processing records, artifacts, or other documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics.” G.S. § 132-1.

The Patriots Foundation requests that a copy of each of these records be provided to it, and does not wish to inspect them first.

The terms “records” and “documents” should be construed in their broadest sense to include any written, typed, electronic, recorded, graphic, or printed material of any kind, regardless of format, and “in any and all media” that your institution “is capable of providing them.” *See* G.S. § 132-6.2. We seek all responsive communications, letters, emails, text or instant messages, as well as transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. If an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the North Carolina Public Records Law must be liberally construed in favor of public access. *Advance Publications v. City of Elizabeth City*, 53 N.C. app 504, 506 (1981). The only exemptions allowed under the public records law are those expressly provided by statute. *Virmani v. Presbyterian Health Services Inc.*, 350 N.C. 449 (1999).

If some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. Please omit any personally identifiable information.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$100. However, we would also like to request a waiver of all fees because disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public’s understanding of the impact of the university’s residential facilities on the overall population of both the university’s locality and the State of North Carolina. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes—The Patriots Foundation is a 501(c)(3) committed to serving as a government “watchdog,” enhancing transparency, and strengthening our republic. The Patriots Foundation uses the information it gathers, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. As such, we are regularly engaged in disseminating information about various aspects of state and local government affairs.

Because of the time-sensitive nature of this request, we ask that you respond to and fulfill this request “as promptly as possible” as required by North Carolina law. G.S. § 132-6. We also respectfully request that documents be made available as soon as they are located and reviewed via a rolling production. The Patriots Foundation will undertake to pay any and all reasonable increased costs incurred as part of a rolling production.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information, along with any statute, caselaw, regulation, or rule on which you rely in declining our request, and notify us of the appeal procedures available to The Patriots Foundation under the law. Please also be advised that undue delay will be treated as denial of our request, and The Patriots Foundation is prepared to pursue all remedies available to it under law in the event that your response is not prompt.

If you have any questions about this request (including if you do not understand any part of this request), or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to The Patriots Foundation, please contact Jason Torchinsky by phone at (540) 341-8808 or by email at [jtorchinsky@hvjt.law](mailto:jtorchinsky@hvjt.law) to discuss this request. The Patriots Foundation welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, The Patriots Foundation and your institution can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

If records are available in electronic format, please email the responsive documents to [jtorchinsky@hvjt.law](mailto:jtorchinsky@hvjt.law). If not, please send responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive by mail to:

Jason Torchinsky  
Holtzman Vogel Josefiak Torchinsky  
15405 John Marshall Hwy  
Haymarket, VA 20169

Please confirm receipt of this request and provide us with an estimate of processing time. We look forward to receiving your response.

Thank you very much for considering this request.

Sincerely,



/s/ Craig Robinson

Craig Robinson  
President  
The Patriots Foundation  
4020 121st Street  
Urbandale, IA 50323  
[craig@theiowarepublican.com](mailto:craig@theiowarepublican.com)  
(515) 282-3000