

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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March 2, 2017

TO: Senate Records Access Officer/Secretary of the Senate Francis W. Patience

FROM: Elena Ruth Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

RE: FOIL/Records Request: The meaning, in dollars, of Senate Rule X, §11:
“Allocation for Community Projects” – & where such appropriations appear
in the budgets for fiscal years 2013-2014; 2014-2015; 2015-2016; 2016-2017;
and 2017-2018”

The Senate Rules for 2017-2018 state as follows in Rule X, §11 – replicating, *verbatim*, Rule X, §11 of the Senate Rules for 2013-2014 and, virtually *verbatim*, Rule X, §11 of the Senate Rules for 2015-2016:

“Allocation for Community Projects. Each conference shall receive an allocation from any amounts to be awarded by the Senate for community projects, capital spending, local assistance or other similar allocations for member driven initiatives. The Majority Coalition shall receive seventy-one percent of such funds and the Democratic Conference shall receive twenty-nine percent of such funds; provided however that such percentages shall increase or decrease to reflect any changes in the membership of either the Majority Coalition or the Democratic Conference.”

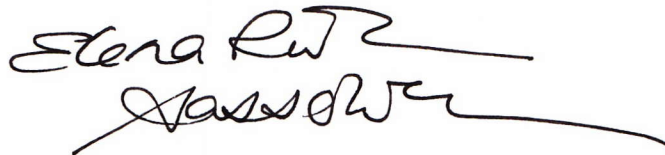
Pursuant to Senate Rule XV, “Freedom of Information”, this is to request records:

- (1) identifying, in dollars, the “amounts” the Senate awarded for “community projects, capital spending, local assistance or other similar allocations for member driven initiatives” in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 – however computed, be it by calendar year or fiscal year;
- (2) identifying, in dollars, the “seventy-one percent of such funds” allocated to the Majority Conference in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 – however computed, be it by calendar year or fiscal year, and reflecting any increases or decreases based on conference membership;
- (3) identifying, in dollars, the “twenty-nine percent of such funds” allocated to the Democratic Conference in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 – however computed, be it by calendar year or fiscal year, and reflecting any increases or decreases based on conference membership;

- (4) identifying where in the budgets for fiscal years 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 the Senate obtained the dollar amounts to award for “community projects, capital spending, local assistance or other similar allocations for member driven initiatives”;
- (5) identifying where in the budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 the Senate will obtain the dollar amounts to award for “community projects, capital spending, local assistance or other similar allocations for member driven initiatives”.

The aforesaid dollar amounts – and the records reflecting them – should be “available through a searchable and sortable database on the Senate website”, pursuant to Senate Rule XV, §1(a) (“Publication of records relating to legislative and administrative records”). Likewise, the budget bills in each fiscal year containing the line-item appropriations. Consequently, a copy of this FOIL/records request will be furnished to the nine members of the Senate Committee on Ethics and Internal Governance so that they can each: (1) determine whether, and to what extent, they can find the dollar amounts and records on the Senate’s website; and (2) evaluate your response to this FOIL/records request, in discharge of their responsibilities pursuant to Senate Rule VIII, §3.

Thank you.

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature appears to be 'Elena Ruiz' and the bottom signature is more stylized and less legible, possibly 'James D. W. [unclear]'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Ethics and Internal Governance
All recipients of CJA’s February 23, 2017 FOIL records request/misconduct-fraud complaint
Committee on Open Government – ATT: Robert Freeman