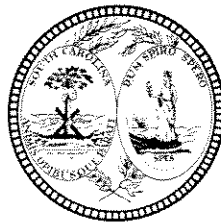


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The State of South Carolina  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

CHARLES MOLONY CONDON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 5, 1996

A. Arthur Rosenblum, Esquire  
Charleston County Attorney  
Post Office Box 777  
Charleston, South Carolina 29402-0777

RE: Informal Opinion

Dear Mr. Rosenblum:

As you were advised, your letter of February 20, 1996, to Attorney General Condon has been referred to me for response. You had inquired, on behalf of the Charleston County Department of Assessments and Mapping, whether a county assessor is required by the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-10 et seq., to compile a report (either manually or computer-generated) of all properties meeting certain criteria selected by the requestor and to provide that report on the media of the requestor's choosing (hard copy, magnetic tape, diskette, etc.)? One example of such a request was for all data maintained in the county's appraisal date base for properties that have more than 2,000 square feet that are in certain tax districts with appraised values greater than \$100,000 that appealed their assessments in 1993.

You have advised that a computer-generated listing by individual parcel number is being made available for inspection free of charge to the public. Such listing will contain several dozen data fields for each parcel. Additionally, a public access computer terminal capable of accessing each parcel will be available in the county assessor's office in the very near future.

In searching our files of previously issued opinions, I found two opinions which are responsive to your inquiry; copies of the opinions are enclosed herewith. The first is dated March 13, 1981, and addressed the question of whether the Aiken County Administrator was required, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, to furnish a list

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a record where the record does not otherwise exist by extracting information from other documents which are in the possession of the public body. On the other hand, the public body may create such a document for a requestor if it chooses; the fees which may be charged by the public body for doing so would be governed by §30-4-30(b).

This letter is an informal opinion only. It has been written by a designated Senior Assistant Attorney General and represents the position of the undersigned attorney as to the specific questions asked. It has not, however, been personally scrutinized by the Attorney General nor officially published in the manner of a formal opinion.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

*Patricia D. Petway*

Patricia D. Petway  
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosures