



September 2, 2026

Via Email to: JeanPaul.Robert@apgov.us

Jean Paul Robert
Parish Attorney
Ascension Parish Government

Re: Rural Roots Louisiana v. Ascension Parish, No. 146,326, Div. B

Mr. Robert:

It has come to our attention that Parish President Clint Cointment made certain statements in a recent Parish Council meeting about the use of non-disclosure agreements (“NDAs”) and the Parish’s commitment to transparency that are directly contradicted by the Parish’s actions in the above-referenced public records litigation.

At the August 20, 2026, meeting of the Parish Council, President Cointment stated:

“There’s nothing that’s being withheld from the public... You can do any kind of parish public information request that you want. It’s all public. Everything I do – everything – is public. So any information that’s in an email or whatever-just ask for it.”¹

These statements are very concerning because they are not borne out by the facts. As you know, Rural Roots Louisiana, an Ascension-based community organization, began asking for the NDAs signed by Parish officials nearly a year ago – specifically on September 24, 2025. When the Parish refused to produce those NDAs, Plaintiffs had to go to court, which they did on December 10, 2025.

Thereafter, Plaintiffs added a second records request to the case for all records of the Ascension Parish Industrial Development Board (“the IDB”) relating to any agreements between Hyundai and the IDB, and/or Ascension Parish because the Parish refused to produce them. Given the definition of “record” in the Public Records Law, this request would have included any emails and drafts of any agreements.

On May 18, 2026, the court ordered the Parish to produce the NDAs, ruling that the Parish had violated the Public Records Law in its attempt to withhold them.²

¹ Video of Ascension Parish Council meeting at 1:27:56 mark, available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxsjBxuhb_I&list=PLHRg7Np5QSBY6TsrEtO6ASqNUt2SDNlyc.

² Judgment and Incorporated Reasons, available at <https://ccrjustice.org/sites/default/files/images/RR%20v%20APG%20Judgment%205.18.26.pdf>

Instead of complying with the court's order and producing the NDAs, the Parish chose to appeal the ruling and asked that the proceedings concerning the IDB records be stayed pending the outcome of the appeal.

The result is that nearly a year after Plaintiffs began making these public records requests, the Parish has not turned over one single document, even though a court has ruled that records should have been produced.

President Cointment's comments simply were not true. In the interest of real, actual transparency, we urge the Parish to correct the record on this important matter of public concern. Because this letter is itself a public record, Rural Roots will make it publicly available.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pamela', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Pamela C. Spees