

23rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF ASCENSION
STATE OF LOUISIANA

RURAL ROOTS LOUISIANA,

Petitioner,

Civil Action No. C-146326

versus

Division: B

ASCENSION PARISH,

Respondent.

Filed: _____

Deputy Clerk _____

**PLAINTIFF’S SUPPLEMENT TO PETITION FOR WRIT FOR MANDAMUS
UNDER THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

[...]

30. Petitioner Rural Roots Louisiana re-alleges and incorporates the foregoing paragraphs 1-29 as if the same were fully set forth herein.

31. On December 22, 2025, Petitioner submitted a records request to Ascension Parish. As repeated verbatim in the Parish’s correspondence of Feb. 18, 2026, annexed hereto as Exhibit F, the request sought:

[A]ll records created, maintained, or received by the Industrial Development Board of the Parish of Ascension, Louisiana, since January 1, 2024, relating to the following:

- (1) All drafted or executed Cooperative Endeavor Agreements (“CEAs”), Memorandums of Understanding ("MOUs"), and/or Agreements for Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs) either by the Industrial Development Board of Ascension Parish ("IDB"), or on behalf of the state of Louisiana or Ascension Parish, and Hyundai Steel Company;
- (2) All public notices of CEAs, MOUs, and/or PILOTs, either by the IDB, or on behalf of the state of the Louisiana and/or Ascension Parish, and Hyundai Steel Company;
- (3) All meeting minutes referencing CEAs, MOUs, and/or PILOTs, either by the IDB, or on behalf of the state of Louisiana or Ascension Parish government, and Hyundai Steel Company;
- (4) Any and all records relating to the issuance of any bonds, including identification by CUSIP where available, and any materials used to market said bonds to investors; and
- (5) Applications for grants, budget allocations, and lines of credit (in addition to bonds) related to commitments between IDB and Hyundai.



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32. After several rounds of correspondence from the custodian of records confirming that a search was underway and the requested records were under review, the Parish responded on Feb. 18, 2026, that “the records requested are exempt from disclosure under public records law for the following reasons: The records requested are exempt from production pursuant to La. R.S. 47:1508, La. R.S. 44:22.2 and the deliberative process exceptions.” Parish Response of Feb. 18, 2026, annexed hereto as Exhibit F.

33. La. R.S. 47:1508 pertains to confidentiality of tax records on file with the Department of Revenue, or a political subdivision pursuant to a tax ordinance.

34. In invoking this privilege, the Parish did not provide any explanation as to how the records requested which relate to CEAs, MOUs, and/or PILOT agreements between the IDB, state or parish entities and Hyundai, as well as related bonds, grants and budget allocations, would pertain to tax records on file with the Department of Revenue or a political subdivision of the parish pursuant to a tax ordinance.

35. Even if there were some connection to tax records on file with one of these entities, the Parish did not explain why such information could not be protected through redactions.

36. The Parish did not explain how these records would be exempt in their entirety pursuant to the deliberative process privilege.

37. La. R.S. 44:22.2, as noted in paragraphs 14-16 in the original petition, is a provision that was amended into the Public Records Law in 2024 that allows for public records to be treated as confidential when they pertain to “an active negotiation with a person for the purpose of a proposed project involving the retention, expansion, or attraction of further economic development within the local government’s jurisdictional boundaries...” if “the person requests such confidentiality in writing.” La. R.S. 44:22.2(A).

38. As set out in paragraphs 17-23 of the original petition, the Parish did not follow the required procedures set out in La. R.S. 44:22.2 to designate any of these records as confidential.

39. Even if it had, the confidentiality exemption provision does not apply after “a proposal affecting the negotiation is submitted to a public body for consideration by the public body in a public meeting.” La. R.S. 44:22.2(C)(1) (defining “active negotiation” or “negotiation remains active” for purposes of the provision).



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40. On May 15, 2025, the Parish Council considered and adopted a proposal affecting the negotiation with Hyundai – a resolution requesting the Parish President to hire a qualified firm to develop a buyout plan for residents affected by the CF Industries expansion, the planned Hyundai Steel plant and the Ascension Clean Energy ammonia production project in Donaldsonville. See Agenda and Resolution, Item 9(a), and Minutes annexed hereto as Exhibit G.

41. The confidentiality provisions of the Public Records Law terminated at least upon the consideration and approval of this proposal by the Parish Council.

42. In addition to the resolution adopted by the Council, the Hyundai project has been publicly known since it was first announced on March 24, 2025. It is the first item mentioned on the homepage of the Parish’s website as seen in this screenshot captured on April 9, 2026:



43. Further, even if the resolution had not been considered and adopted by the Parish Council nearly a year ago, La. R.S. 44:22.2(A) provides that the confidentiality exemptions can only be in effect “until negotiations are concluded.” Thereafter, “immediately upon the conclusion of the negotiation, all such records shall be subject to the provisions of this Chapter [the Public Records Law].” La. R.S. 44:22.2(A).

44. To the extent any of these agreements have been finalized, they are no longer in active negotiation and the confidentiality provision of the Public Records Law no longer applies to exempt these public records, nor any other records relating to them, from disclosure.



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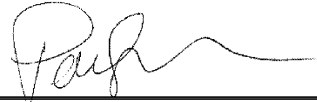
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PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Petitioners pray that a writ of mandamus be issued directing Respondent to disclose the records requested or show cause why they should not be ordered to do so. Petitioners also pray for an award of attorney's fees, costs, damages, and civil penalties, as provided by law.

Respectfully submitted,



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