

City of Detroit



Downtown Development Authority
500 Griswold • Suite 2200
Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone: 313 963 2940
Fax: 313 963 8839

August 20, 2013

COPY

Mr. Bill McMaster
Taxpayers United Michigan Foundation
2700 Robindale
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request
Dated August 16, 2013

Dear Mr. McMaster:

On August 19, 2013 we received a letter from you dated August 16, 2013 directed to the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation ("DEGC") and the City of Detroit Downtown Development Authority (DDA). It purports to be a request for the production of records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, MCLA Section 15.231 et seq. ("FOIA"). The DEGC is not a "public body" as that term is defined in Section 2 of FOIA (MCLA Section 15.232(d)), therefore no response is required by the DEGC.

As FOIA Coordinator for the DDA, I am responding for that entity only. It appears from your letter that you are requesting records describing the net property tax revenues received by the City of Detroit from the listed entities. The DDA does not maintain records of the nature you are requesting.

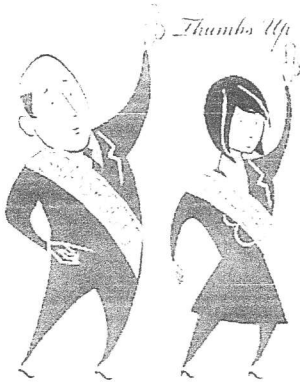
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Art Papapanos', written in a cursive style.

Art Papapanos
FOIA Coordinator

AP/gh

Cc: Brian Kott, Esq.
Rebecca Navin, Esq.



TAXPAYERS UNITED MICHIGAN FOUNDATION
TAX DEDUCTIBLE UNDER IRS CODE 501(c)(3) FOUNDED 1976

Bill McMaster, State Chairman (Volunteer)
2700 Robindale Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
Office (248) 977-1865 Fax Call First Pls.
Cell (248) 798-8501
Email Bill@TaxpayersUnitedMI.org
Web www.TaxpayersUnitedMI.org

"Helping educate grassroots taxpayers how to defend and control their Constitutional Rights, despite exploitation by units of government."

Mr. George W. Jackson, Jr., President & CEO
Detroit Economic Growth Corporation/ City of Detroit Downtown Development Authority
500 Griswold St.
Detroit, MI 48226
Tel. (313) 963-2940 Fax (313) 963-8839

August 16, 2013

ATTENTION FOIA COORDINATOR:

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE MICHIGAN FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OF 1976

We in Taxpayers United Michigan Foundation request the following information:

The bottom line total of 2012 Detroit Property Tax Assessments paid by MAJOR EMPLOYERS currently on the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation web site list (see attached) **AFTER** deduction of all applied tax breaks enabled by various programs of government including:

- 1-Detroit Economic Growth Corporation
- 2- Economic Development Corporation of the City of Detroit
- 3- City of Detroit Downtown Development Authority
- 4- Detroit Brownfield Re-Development Authority
- 5- City of Detroit Local Development Finance Authority
- 6- City of Detroit Tax Increment Finance Authority
- 7- Detroit Renaissance Zones (Public Act 376 of 1976) which, according to a Feb. 18, 2013 City of Detroit document, reports: ***"The residents of and businesses located and operating within the zones are virtually free of all state and local taxes located within their respective boundaries. Residents and businesses are eligible for a waiver of most state and local taxes."***

Taxpayers United is particularly interested in factually determining if, and how much annual property tax obligation remained to the City of Detroit from each of the following Detroit companies after being granted tax breaks in any of the Detroit Renaissance Zones:

Quicken Loans/ Rock Financial/ Rock Ventures and other subsidiaries/ Gilbert's 30 Downtown building purchases and Greektown Gambling Casino and Hotel/ Matt Cullen; Compuware Corp.

and subsidiaries/ Peter Karmanos Jr.; Illitch Holdings, Inc./ Mike & Marian Illitch's family of companies including Fox Theater office Building and environs/ Little Caesar's Pizza Corp./ Joe Louis Arena/ Detroit Red Wings Hockey Team/ Comerica Baseball Stadium/ Detroit Tigers Baseball Team and Olympia Entertainment, Inc.; Penske Corp./ Penske Automotive Group, Inc./ Roger Penske; Walbridge Aldinger Co., Contractors, / John Rakolta; General Motors Corporation headquarters, office and production facilities and subsidiaries located in Detroit Renaissance Zones; Ally Bank; Chrysler-Fiat; Ford Motor Co./ Bill Ford, Jr/ Detroit Lions Football Team/ William Clay Ford/ Ford Field; Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan; MGM Grand Detroit; AT&T Inc.; North American International Auto Show/ Detroit Auto Dealers Association; Delta Airlines; Consumers Energy/DTE Energy; United Auto Workers Union Headquarters; Andiamo Restaurant Group/ Joe Vicari; Miller Canfield Law Firm; Detroit Medical Center; Deloitte LLC (CPA firm); Hartz Farms/ John Hartz; Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce; Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)/ SMART; Crain Communications, Inc.; WDIV-TV Channel 4; Soave Enterprises LLC/ Anthony Soave; Rizzo Environmental Services; Strategic Staffing Solutions/ Cynthia Pasky; and Comerica Bank.

Continuing with the list of governmental units/Public Private Partnerships/Authorities/etc. that provide tax breaks to major Detroit companies through the Detroit Economic Growth Council and "Partners" , and which, we understand, is already off- the- shelf available as transparent public record identifying the amount of 2012 Detroit Property Tax due from deals with each company:

- 8- Industrial Facility Abatements (Public Act 198 of 1974)
- 9- Personal Property Tax Relief in Distressed Communities (Public Act 328 of 1998)
- 10- Obsolete Property Abatements (Public Act 146 of 2000)
- 11- Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ) (PA 147 of 1992)
- 12- Neighborhood Enterprise Zone Homestead Facility Certificate (Public Act 147 of 1992)
- 13- Brownfield Redevelopment (PA 381 of 1996)
- 14- Commercial Rehabilitation Act (PA 210 of 2005)
- 15- Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) (Public Act 346 of 1996) and Det. City Ordinance 9-90

There are more tax abatement corporate welfare incentives benefitting politically connected Detroit companies that we volunteers in Taxpayers United suspect may further reduce or eliminate the expectation all Detroit businesses pay their same fair share of taxes, but we haven't been able to gain access to such information without this Freedom of Information Act Request.


For example, a couple of us attended the seminar at the State of Michigan Cadillac Place former GM office building in Detroit earlier this year put on by Economic Development organizations from Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan and the Obama Administration. Speakers used slide presentations and brochures to urge the packed conference room to utilize the millions of dollars now available through them in collaboration with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) which had been inconspicuously appropriated from federal and state taxpayers for giving generous grants to ordinary citizens, especially minority, wanting to obtain funding for rehabbing buildings at least 50 years old for Historical Designation and subsequent years of tax breaks.

During Q and A, I asked: "Since all of the Downtown Detroit office buildings acquired by Dan Gilbert and investors to date are more than 50 years old, can he qualify them for Historical Designations?" Answer: "He hasn't requested that yet. I understand he has a strategic reason to wait two or three months."

The only reliable source for grassroots taxpayers to obtain access to legally required open Detroit public property tax rolls seem to be through the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation with a Freedom of Information Act Request.

If you have questions, please call my cell phone (248) 798-8501 or Email without delay
Bill@TaxpayersUnitedMI.org.

Sincerely,



Bill McMaster, State Chairman (Volunteer)

Taxpayers United Michigan Foundation was founded in 1976 by Dick Headlee (deceased 2004) and Bill McMaster to successfully win statewide voter approval of the 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment. It has evolved into a tax deductible 501(c)(3) under the IRS code as a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational foundation helping educate grassroots taxpayers how to defend and control their Constitutional Rights despite exploitation by unethical public officials and units of government.

Bill McMaster is still President of national award winning McMaster Marketing & PR he founded in 1968.