



**GEORGIA FIRST  
AMENDMENT  
FOUNDATION**  
your right to know

January 23, 2008

Mr. Alan D. Theriault, Administrative Officer  
Oconee County Board of Commissioners  
P.O. Box 145  
Watkinsville, Georgia 30677

Dear Mr. Theriault:

I am writing on behalf of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation. We are an organization that seeks to advance the cause of open government and monitors freedom of information issues throughout this state.

It has been brought to our attention that the Oconee County Board of Commissioners appears to have improperly conducted its public meetings. See O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-1, 50-14-3. Additionally, the Board of Commissioners appears to be failing to comply properly with the requirements of the open records act. See O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72. We are concerned that these activities are contrary to public policy and urge you to review O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 *et seq.* and O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 *et seq.* which set forth the requirements for properly held public meetings and the release of public records.

To that end, I have enclosed a copy of our publication, *Georgia's Sunshine Laws: A Citizen's Guide to Open Government*, which discusses both the open records and meetings acts as well as other open government issues pertinent to your work. Similarly, this foundation would be pleased to visit with you and conduct a workshop on the mechanics of both of the open government laws.

We would appreciate an explanation of what will be done to remedy these actions that go against the interests of the public. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hollie Manheimer  
Executive Director

Enclosure  
Cc: GFAF Board

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