



## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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February 20, 2019

*Via email to: [dubmcgov@windstream.net](mailto:dubmcgov@windstream.net)*

Joseph D. McGovern, Esquire  
704 W. Barnard Street  
PO Box 458  
Glennville, GA 30427-0445

RE: *Open Meetings Act Complaint from Jessica Szilagyι regarding Tattnall County*

Dear Mr. McGovern:

I am writing to you in your capacity as the County Attorney for Tattnall County. I have enclosed correspondence from Jessica Szilagyι about a meeting of the county commission on February 4, 2019. At that meeting, the commissioners apparently had an executive session discussion about bids for the construction of an EMS building in Glennville. This discussion did not appear to be one of the situations for which the Open Meetings Act allows an executive session.

Under Georgia law the Attorney General, as an independent constitutional officer, has the discretionary authority to enforce the Open Records Act and the Open Meetings Act. O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-5(a), 50-18-73(a). The Attorney General has chosen to exercise that discretion by establishing a mediation program where citizens may raise issues and concerns with us regarding the Acts and we will attempt to resolve disputes between citizens and local government.

I am not aware of the complete circumstances surrounding the February 4 meeting and the executive session, and I am not assuming the county violated the law. I would appreciate a response within 10 business days of the date of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Joseph D. McGovern, Esq.  
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Sincerely,

*Jennifer Colangelo*

JENNIFER COLANGELO  
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Ms. Jessica Szilagyi

Enclosures