

# EXHIBIT I

**From:** Wendi Thomas wendictomas@mlk50.com  
**Subject:** A new year, another attempt! TRY SIX RESPONSE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED Re: public records event tomorrow.  
**Date:** January 14, 2020 at 2:44 PM  
**To:** Madden, Ursula ursula.madden@memphistn.gov, Cole, Arlenia arlenia.cole@memphistn.gov, Springer, Daniel Dan.Springer@memphistn.gov  
**Cc:** Deborah Douglas deb@mlk50.com

WT

Hope your 2020 is off to a good start.

I wanted to follow up on my request to have MLK50 added to the city's media advisory lists. I've also filed a related public records request ( W014200-011420) for the city's written policy that governs media credentialing and how it decides which journalists/outlets are added to media distribution lists.

Again, I ask that MLK50 (specifically these email addresses: [wendictomas@mlk50.com](mailto:wendictomas@mlk50.com), [deb@mlk50.com](mailto:deb@mlk50.com) and [mlk50@mlk50.com](mailto:mlk50@mlk50.com)) be added to the city's media advisory lists.

By failing to add MLK50 to these lists - and failing to provide the written policy governing this decision - the city of Memphis has chosen to treat this legitimate news gathering organization differently from other organizations. What MLK50 does is expressly protected by the First Amendment.

I would like to resolve this as soon as possible, without getting outside parties involved. Feel free to call me at the number below if you have any questions.

Best,

Wendi

Wendi C. Thomas  
Editor, MLK50: Justice Through Journalism  
[mlk50.com](http://mlk50.com) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) @mlk50memphis  
901-210-4034

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On Nov 20, 2019, at 12:47 PM, Wendi Thomas <[wendictomas@mlk50.com](mailto:wendictomas@mlk50.com)> wrote:

Hi, I hope you're all doing well. What can I do to expedite my request to be added to the city's media advisory list?

Ursula and Arlenia, I've sent you text messages today. Arlenia, I've left you a voice mail message today at your work and cell number.

I've sent emails on Oct. 29, Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and now again, Nov. 20. In that time, I haven't gotten a response to my emails or added to the lists.

There's nothing on the city's communications page that indicates there's a media credentialing

process, but if there is one, please advise. If there's additional information you need from me or about MLK50, please let me know.

Exclusion from these advisories makes it difficult for MLK50's journalists to do their jobs. We respectfully ask for treatment equal to that provided to other local news organizations.

Best,

Wendi

Wendi C. Thomas

Editor, MLK50: Justice Through Journalism

[mlk50.com](http://mlk50.com) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) @mlk50memphis

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Wendi Thomas <[wendicthomas@mlk50.com](mailto:wendicthomas@mlk50.com)>

**Subject: TRY FOUR. RESPONSE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED Re: public records event tomorrow.**

**Date:** November 6, 2019 at 7:29:03 PM CST

**To:** "Cole, Arlenia" <[arlenia.cole@memphistn.gov](mailto:arlenia.cole@memphistn.gov)>, "Springer, Daniel"

<[Dan.Springer@memphistn.gov](mailto:Dan.Springer@memphistn.gov)>, "Madden, Ursula"

<[ursula.madden@memphistn.gov](mailto:ursula.madden@memphistn.gov)>

**Cc:** Deborah Douglas <[deb@mlk50.com](mailto:deb@mlk50.com)>

Arlenia, Ursula and Dan:

Following up. This is my fourth attempt to get the city to add MLK50 to its media advisory lists. I asked Dan once in person at last week's event. None of my emails have bounced back, which leads me to believe that the emails are being received.

Again, I ask that you confirm receipt of this email and to add the following email addresses to your media advisory/distribution lists:

[wendicthomas@mlk50.com](mailto:wendicthomas@mlk50.com)

[deb@mlk50.com](mailto:deb@mlk50.com)

[mlk50@mlk50.com](mailto:mlk50@mlk50.com)

By way of background, MLK50 is a member of the Institute for Nonprofit News, which requires us to adopt INN's ethics and transparency policies. We are the only local nonprofit news organization that is a member.

We are also part of ProPublica's Local Reporting Network and received the 2019 Best Practices Award from the National Association of Black Journalists. You may have seen MLK50's stories published in [The Guardian](#), on NPR [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and in [The Commercial Appeal](#), or referenced in [The New York Times](#) and [Mother Jones](#).

I'm glad to provide any additional information you may need to add us to the media advisory distribution list. If you have made a decision not to add MLK50, I'd like to know the reason for that decision and to see the city policy that governs such decisions.

Thanks in advance,

Wendi

Wendi C. Thomas  
Editor, MLK50: Justice Through Journalism  
[mlk50.com](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) @mlk50memphis  
901-210-4034

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On Oct 31, 2019, at 8:09 PM, Wendi Thomas <[wendicthomas@mlk50.com](mailto:wendicthomas@mlk50.com)> wrote:

Hi! I hope all is well. I spoke to Dan at yesterday's media event about this email, yet have not received confirmation that you have received or that I have been added to the city's media advisory/distribution lists.

Again, I ask that you confirm receipt of this email and to add the following email addresses to your media advisory/distribution lists:

[wendicthomas@mlk50.com](mailto:wendicthomas@mlk50.com)  
[deb@mlk50.com](mailto:deb@mlk50.com)  
[mlk50@mlk50.com](mailto:mlk50@mlk50.com)

Wendi C. Thomas  
Editor, MLK50: Justice Through Journalism  
[mlk50.com](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) @mlk50memphis  
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On Oct 30, 2019, at 11:29 AM, Wendi Thomas <[wendicthomas@mlk50.com](mailto:wendicthomas@mlk50.com)> wrote:

I'm not sure this went through as I didn't get a response. I'll be at the event this afternoon.

Please confirm that you have added the following email addresses to all of the city's media advisory/distribution lists.

[wendicthomas@mlk50.com](mailto:wendicthomas@mlk50.com)

[deb@mlk50.com](mailto:deb@mlk50.com)

[mlk50@mlk50.com](mailto:mlk50@mlk50.com)

If you have any questions, please reach out at this email address or the phone number below.

Best,

Wendi

Wendi C. Thomas

Editor, MLK50: Justice Through Journalism

[mlk50.com](http://mlk50.com) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) @mlk50memphis

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On Oct 29, 2019, at 1:46 PM, Wendi Thomas <[wendicthomas@mlk50.com](mailto:wendicthomas@mlk50.com)> wrote:

I'd like to RSVP for tomorrow's public records event for the media.

I did not receive the email (pasted below) that was sent to other local media outlets. Given that I file a significant number of public records requests, including one that is 433 days old today, I'm surprised that neither MLK50 nor I was included.

A member of the Institute for Nonprofit News, MLK50: Justice Through Journalism is a nonprofit newsroom focused on poverty, power and public policy.

Can you please confirm that the following email addresses have been added to any and all media advisory/distribution lists sent by any and all city departments?

[wendicthomas@mlk50.com](mailto:wendicthomas@mlk50.com)

[deb@mlk50.com](mailto:deb@mlk50.com)

[mlk50@mlk50.com](mailto:mlk50@mlk50.com)

Thanks in advance,

Wendi

Wendi C. Thomas

Editor, MLK50: Justice Through Journalism

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**From:** Springer, Dan <[Dan.Springer@memphistn.gov](mailto:Dan.Springer@memphistn.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2019 10:33 AM

**To:** Springer, Dan <[Dan.Springer@memphistn.gov](mailto:Dan.Springer@memphistn.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Media Advisory--City of Memphis demonstration of new "Memphis Data Hub"

Good morning,

Please see the attached advisory regarding a media training session for the City's new Memphis Data Hub site. For members of the media interested in attending, please R.S.V.P. to [Arlenia.cole@memphistn.gov](mailto:Arlenia.cole@memphistn.gov).

Thanks

DS

**Dan Springer**

Deputy Director, Media Affairs

Office of Mayor Jim Strickland

City of Memphis

125 North Main, Suite 700

Memphis, TN 38103

Office: 901.636.6543

Cell: 901.302.0652

<image001.jpg>

*To receive Mayor Strickland's Weekly Update in your inbox, sign up [here](#).*