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July 15, 2005

Mr. Geoff Davidian  
4101 North Prospect Avenue  
Shorewood, WI 53211

RE: Shorewood Library Board

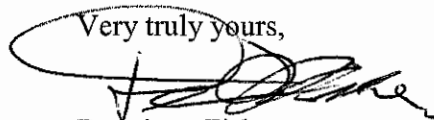
Dear Mr. Davidian:

I am responding to your letter dated July 13, 2005 to Jeff Hanewall, President of the Shorewood Library Board. Your letter indicates that you reviewed the redacted bills from our law firm, but also that you do not accept them as responsive to your request for public records.

Your request to Mr. Hanewall was for copies of the invoices submitted by our firm to the Shorewood Library Board. Those records were produced in redacted form. The redactions consisted solely of the text in the invoices, which describes the nature of the legal services provided. In Lane v. Sharp Packaging Systems, Inc., 251 Wis.2d 68 (2002), the Wisconsin Supreme Court declared that detailed descriptions of the nature of legal services being provided by an attorney to a client, even when contained in a billing statement, constitute a form of attorney-client communications that are protected by the attorney-client privilege. Accordingly, the text portions of these invoices, which contain detailed descriptions of legal services provided, were deleted from the copies of the invoices which were provided to you. Nonetheless, the copies that you received did indicate the dates on which services were rendered, the amount of time involved and the cost of such services and of any out-of-pocket expenditures.

I also note that the primacy of the attorney-client privilege in the context of an attorney communicating with members of a public board was more recently reaffirmed in GPS, Inc. v. Town of St. Germain, 266 Wis 2d 694 (Ct. App. 2003). Accordingly, Mr. Hanewall's response to your request for public records consisting of invoices from legal counsel with text portions redacted was provided in a fashion consistent with Wisconsin's Public Records Law.

Very truly yours,



Dennis L. Fisher

cc: Jeff Hanewall  
Chris Swartz  
Raymond Pollen