



## SUNSHINE AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

December 6, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Today, the Sunshine and Government Accountability Project along with Plaintiff, Alan Hoffman, filed a lawsuit against the City of St. Louis and members of the Airport Advisory Board seeking to obtain records denied, including RFQs and transcripts of improperly closed meetings, to void previous actions improperly taken behind closed doors, to open meetings prospectively, and other important remedies.

Whether you favor, oppose or are uncertain about the propriety of St. Louis Lambert Airport privatization, that doesn't matter. Democrats, Republicans, Independents, people of all political persuasions, and nearly everyone in the St. Louis region agrees on one thing: The Lambert Airport Privatization process should be transparent and should conform with the state's Sunshine, Open Records and Transparency Laws.

Plaintiff, Alan Hoffman, had the courage to stand up and object to a closed government meeting about the privatization of St. Louis' most valuable public asset. There are many more people just like Alan, private citizens, residents, and even elected officials, who have each stood up to fight against a process currently locked behind closed doors and funded by tens of millions of private dollars, dollars St. Louis taxpayers are on the hook to pay.

The Sunshine and Government Accountability Project is proud to stand with Alan, St. Louis City residents, elected officials objecting to the process, and residents and businesses throughout the St. Louis region. We all are entitled to information and are entitled to observe a process that has been closed. We live in a democracy. We created a system of government that ensures we determine our own destiny. We cannot make critical determinations about our future without all the information, and we certainly cannot make these critical determinations while people or governments hide that information. To prevent this, we created laws that ensure access to government records and access to public meetings with very narrow exceptions. These exceptions have been improperly widened and have cloaked the entire process in secrecy.

It is with humility and a great respect for our laws and institutions that we fight this battle in order to protect our rights to a democratic, transparent and accountable government.

Respectfully,

Mark Pedroli, Esq.

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