



STATE OF MAINE

OFFICE  
OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE

CHARLES E. SUMMERS, JR.  
SECRETARY OF STATE

December 1, 2011

Ms. Dorothy Lafortune  
P.O. Box 187  
Biddeford, ME 04005

Dear Ms. Lafortune:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) request for any documents held by my Office pertaining to Deputy Secretary of State, Julie Flynn's response to an inquiry on the proper handling of ballots during the 2004 election in Biddeford. I take your request very seriously and am more than happy to provide you with any public information you request if it is within my custody.

As I noted in my previous correspondence, the matter was vetted by Ms. Flynn at the time of the incident. Upon receiving your letter requesting an investigation, I contacted her to review her handling of the situation. Based on her recollection of the incident, she indicated that on the day of the election when she received the complaint, she made several phone calls to the Town Clerk of Biddeford and other staff/witnesses to verify the facts of the inquiry before arriving at a decision on how to address the situation.

To the best of my knowledge, my Office does not possess any documentation of Ms. Flynn's review of the matter in question as the process was based on oral communication. Additionally, 21-A MRSA section 23 states that materials related to a special election are only required to be kept for two months after the election; therefore any phone logs that may have existed are not available now. Please understand that I am not denying your request for documents; it is just that what you have requested does not exist.

Again, thank you for your letter. I hope that this information is helpful to you. If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at 626-8400.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Summers, Jr.  
Secretary of State

cc: Julie Flynn, Deputy Secretary of State  
/mmc