STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
www.attorneygeneral.nd.gov
(701) 328-2210

Drew H. Wrigley
ATTORNEY GENERAL

OPEN RECORDS AND MEETINGS SUMMARY OPINION
2026-SO-30

DATE ISSUED: November 23, 2026

ISSUED TO: City of Mandan

SUMMARY OPINION[1]

S. Paul Jordan requested an opinion from this office under N.D.C.C. § 44-04-21.1 asking whether the City of Mandan (City) violated N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18 by failing to respond to his records request made to its prosecutor on September 25, 2025. The City admits that no response was provided to the requester.[2] Upon receiving a request for records, it is well settled that "[p]ublic entities must, within a reasonable time, provide records responsive to a request or explain why the records cannot be provided."[3] It is my opinion that the City violated N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18 by failing to respond to Mr. Jordan's request for records. As the City has informed this office that the Municipal Prosecutor has no records responsive to the request, no further remedial action is required.

Drew H. Wrigley
Attorney General

wdw

cc: S. Paul Jordan

---

[1] This Summary Opinion is issued pursuant to the authority granted to this office in N.D.C.C. § 44-04-21.1(1).
[2] Letter from Daniel Nagle, Mun. Prosecutor, City of Mandan, to Stephen R. Hanson, Assistant Att'y Gen., Off. of Att'y Gen. (Nov. 19, 2025).
[3] N.D.A.G. 2023-O-06, *citing* N.D.C.C. 44-04-18(8), N.D.A.G. 2021-0-09; N.D.A.G. 2014-0-06; N.D.A.G. 2013-0-15.