



Mississippi State Legislature
Post Office Box 1018
Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1018

November 1, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Capitol Press Room Occupants
Fourth Floor, Mississippi Capitol
Jackson, Mississippi

RE: Occupancy of 4th Floor Capitol Press Area

Dear Media Organizations:

We are writing to clarify the status with regard to use of the Capitol Press Room area on the fourth floor of the Capitol. Specifically, we want to make it clear that no rent is requested for use of this space, and no rental payment will be accepted if tendered.

Within the past year it has come to our attention that some media organizations have been making normal payments, ostensibly for rent, while the majority have not. Frankly, this came as a surprise, as we had not been aware that any rent was tendered or accepted.

Our analysis of market rents reveals that a fair market value monthly rental for comparable space (if such existed) would be between \$12 and \$17 per square foot. We are not in the business of commercial leasing, indeed, the 4th floor media space is provided to you on a first-come, first-served basis not as an entitlement, but as the Legislature's voluntary accommodation to you to assist you in doing your job. Accordingly, if your organization has been paying rent, then please discontinue doing so.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Senator Terry Burton
President Pro Tempore

Representative Greg Snowden
Speaker Pro Tempore