Date:

February 13, 2013

TO:

Greg Hubinger

Legislative Coordinating Commission

FROM:

Paula Brown

Director of Operations

Re:

Request for Information

This memo is in response to your February 8, 2013 email asking me to review and update the March, 2007 memo regarding the value of the Governor's Residence and the state vehicle.

M.S. 16B.27 provides a Residence for Minnesota's governor. The statute requires that the Residence be used for official state and ceremonial functions and also provides a home for the governor and family. The Residence is used to host many meetings and events each year, as well as being open to the public for tours during specific times of the year.

Because of the number and nature of events at the Residence, it is not possible to accurately divide the costs and/or "value" of the Residence among, state, public and family functions. The Residence must be heated and cooled throughout the year, regardless of whether a governor lives there. Taxes and utilities must be paid whether or not a governor lives there. Personal meals provided to a governor and family are paid for by the governor through payroll deduction.

Historically, some governors have lived in the Residence full-time; others part-time. The Residence and its close proximity to the State Capitol provides easy and efficient access between the Capitol and the Residence for the Governor and staff.

Regarding the state vehicle, it is the vehicle in which executive protection transports the governor. It is considered part of the governor's security as determined by the Department of Public Safety and is specifically equipped so that the governor can respond to state emergencies 24/7. It is not driven by the governor himself.

If you have questions, please let me know.