

# THOMPSON BUILDING WRECKING CO., INC.

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Commercial  
Demolition  
Equipment Rental  
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## PRESS CONFERENCE

**TOMORROW, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30am**

Held by Thompson Building Wrecking Co. Inc.

*Location: In front of the former Candy Factory (corner of James Brown Blvd. and Telfair St).*

### **Augusta's Public Bidding Procedure Detrimental to Taxpayers**

Thompson Building Wrecking Co., Inc. ("Thompson") has challenged the award of an Augusta RFP to demolish the Former Candy Factory in downtown Augusta on the basis that it will cost taxpayers over \$250,000.00. After learning that Augusta was seeking Commission approval to award the contract at a contract price 62% higher than its proposal, Thompson filed suit to prevent the award and waste of public funds.

Thompson's proposal was rejected by Augusta's Procurement Department because its bid package did not include a copy of its bid bond obtained three weeks earlier. The Superior Court of Richmond County ruled on October 19<sup>th</sup> that Thompson's mistake to include the bid bond in its RFP package was a technicality that could be waived by Augusta. Augusta is apparently refusing to consider Thompson's bid. Its failure to consider Thompson's bid is not only contrary to public policy of awarding bids to the lowest price qualified vendor, it is a waste of public funds at a time the City has declared a budget crisis.

Augusta has adopted a strict Materiality Provision that does not allow it to waive "technicalities and informalities," contrary to state law. For example, if a low bidder submits five (5) copies of its bid, when six (6) were requested, the vendor's bid must be rejected. Unfortunately, Augusta arbitrarily and capriciously uses this provision in the award of bids. Sometimes it enforces it, sometimes it does not. In fact, the vendor that has been recommended did not comply with the Materiality Provision, but its bid was not rejected. Thompson has discovered numerous discrepancies in Augusta's public procurement program and will share some of its discoveries at the news conference.

We hear that arts and community funding will be cut and we will have fewer deputies because of the budget crisis in Augusta. How many deputies could be funded with a quarter million dollars?

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*For more information contact: Robert Mullins at (706) 724-1357*