# Comment request sent by the Lago Vista Watchdog, Oct. 26, 2026

Sent from the newsroom inbox. Text as sent.

From: newsroom@lagovistawatchdog.com
To: Eric Zeno, Economic Development Director, City of Lago Vista (Eric.Zeno@lagovistatexas.gov)
Date: Oct. 26, 2026
Subject: Request for comment: Lago Fest hotel tax reporting

Mr. Zeno,

I'm writing from the Lago Vista Watchdog, an independent local news site. We are publishing a story about the Oct. 22 hotel tax class and the city's agreement talks with the North Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce. The chamber's executive director, Allison Sargent, sent us a written statement that names Lago Fest, which the city hosts. We will publish her statement in her name, and we want the city's side included. If you respond, we will update the story.

Ms. Sargent wrote:

"When the Chamber asked how Lago Fest reported its HOT expenses, we received a Word document with no supporting data or receipts, which the City accepted. In June 2026, the City confirmed Lago Fest did not go through the City's HOT application and review process. We have filed an open records request for the full records."

Our questions:
- Did Lago Fest receive hotel occupancy tax money in 2024-25 or 2025-26? If so, how much, and from which account?
- How did the city document Lago Fest's hotel tax eligible costs? Were receipts or a post-event report kept?
- Did Lago Fest go through the city's hotel tax application and review process? If not, why not?
- Is there anything in Ms. Sargent's statement the city would correct or add?

We expect to publish soon and will update the story with any response that arrives afterward.

Jack Britton
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