Lori E. Lightfoot
Mayor

Department of Police · City of Chicago
3510 S. Michigan Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60653

David O. Brown
Superintendent of Police

06/09/2020

Emma Best
Chicago IL 606

RE: FOIA REQUEST of June 08, 2020, Reference # P584938-060920

Dear Emma :

The Chicago Police Department is in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. On June 08, 2020, the following request was received.

Emails, letters, and memos to or from police/law enforcement unions, the National Guard, or federal officials between May 1, 2020 and the present. I also request copies of emails containing any of the following: "protest", "protests", "Black Lives Matter", "BLM", "riot", "riots", "antifa", "antifascist", "anti-fascist", or "militia".

FOIA requires each public body to promptly respond to a request for public records, either by complying or denying the request, within 5 business days after the public body has received the request. Under the Freedom of Information Act, a public body may extend the time to respond to a FOIA request by up to 5 business days.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Governor's issuance of a disaster proclamation, the Chicago Police Department (CPD) is taking preventive measures in attempt to control the spread of the virus. Therefore, the CPD has chosen to allow Department members assigned to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Unit to work remotely and has partially closed its office due to sworn members assigned to administrative duties being deployed to the field for public safety. In addition, as more and more individuals become ill or come into contact with someone infected with COVID-19 and are isolated or quarantined, members of CPD FOIA Unit may be unable to report to work. In such circumstances, CPD may assert exceptions outlined in 5 ILCS 140/3(e), particularly if responding to the request is unduly burdensome in the circumstances, requires review by an unavailable staff member, or requires resources to obtain records located off-site.

Please keep in mind that FOIA allows CPD and the requester to come to a mutually agreeable response period to comply with a FOIA request. Members of the public and media are asked to keep these considerations in mind and are strongly encouraged to work with public bodies to agree on reasonable and appropriate response times in light of the public health concerns we all face. Given that the length of the pandemic remains unknown and that staffing levels have been reduced, during this statewide emergency declaration, CPD may treat a FOIA request as unduly burdensome, in the event that it is not feasible for CPD to comply with or deny a request for public records within 5 business days after its receipt of the request or the time for response was properly extended under 5 ILCS 140/3(e) because it would unduly burden CPD's operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At this time, we are extending the time to respond to your request by an additional 5 business days.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 312-745-5308 or at the following address:

Chicago Police Department
Attention: Freedom of Information Officer
Office of Legal Affairs, Unit 114
3510 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60653

Sincerely,

Andrew Marlan
Freedom of Information Officer
Chicago Police Department