



OFFICE OF MAYOR BRANDON JOHNSON
CITY OF CHICAGO

March 8, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE

Jimmy Tobias
159354-00981409@requests.muckrock.com

RE: Notice of Response to FOIA Request
FOIA File No.: F068615

Dear Jimmy Tobias,

On behalf of the City of Chicago Office of the Mayor, I am responding to your Freedom of Information Act request received by this department on February 29, 2024, requesting:

A full copy of the Inspector General report that probed the former 2020 Crawford coal plant implosion that blanketed Little Village in a dust storm. The report I am seeking is referenced in the following article: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/city-hall/2023/2/14/23599863/little-village-smokestack-implosion-hilco-inspector-general-report>

Your request was reviewed by the undersigned. Please be advised that the records you seek are exempt from production under FOIA. The Illinois State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 430/1-1, et seq., provides that “[a]ll investigatory files and reports of the Office of an Executive Inspector General, other than monthly reports required under Section 20-85, are confidential, are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, and shall not be divulged to any person or agency[.]” The statute then lists certain exceptions to that rule, not applicable here. 5 ILCS 430/20-95(d). Section 7.5 of FOIA exempts “information the disclosure of which is exempted under the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, and records of any lawfully created State or local inspector general’s office that would be exempt if created or obtained by an Executive Inspector General’s office under that Act.” 5 ILCS 140/7.5(h). Because the records you seek are reports and investigative files of the City of Chicago Inspector General, which would be exempt if created by an Executive Inspector General, they are exempt from production under FOIA.

You have the right to a review under 5 ILCS 140-9.5(a) by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, 500 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706, Phone: (877)299-3642, Fax: (217)782-1396, E-mail: public.access@ilag.gov. You may also seek judicial review of a denial under 5 ILCS 140/11 by filing a lawsuit in the State Circuit Court.

Sincerely,

Hibo Aden
FOIA Officer