



Lori E. Lightfoot
Mayor

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

Charlie Beck
Interim Superintendent of Police

January 21, 2020

Via Email:

Beryl Lipton
MuckRock
84642-18274280@requests.muckrock.com

Re: **NOTICE OF RESPONSE TO FOIA REQUEST**
FOIA FILE NO.: P554441

Dear Beryl Lipton,

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) is in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, received January 6, 2020 for the following:

"Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

All police discipline reports from 2019."

As permitted by 5 ILCS 140/3(e), the time was extended in order to conduct a thorough search for these records. Your request was reviewed by the undersigned in collaboration with the Department's Bureau of Internal Affairs. Your request was interpreted as seeking all Complaint Register (CR) files reported in 2019. It was determined that your request is unduly burdensome as currently written and as a result, your request is denied.

Given the scope of your request, processing such a request would be unduly burdensome as written. FOIA provides in 5 ILCS 140/3(g) that requests for all records falling within a category shall be complied with unless compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information. Providing all of the CR files that you are requesting constitutes more than 3,500 cases. Based on past requests for CR files, CR files are typically at least 50 pages in length and the longest can exceed well more than 1,000 pages in length. The total page count of 3,500 CR files, using a conservative estimate that each of those files numbered only 50 pages in length, would constitute more than 175,000 pages of responsive documents, which would require substantial collection, redaction, and review of

Emergency and TTY: 9-1-1 • Non Emergency and TTY: (within city limits) 3-1-1 • Non Emergency and TTY: (outside city limits) (312) 746-6000

E-mail: police@cityofchicago.org • Website: www.cityofchicago.org/police

documents. Even assuming that CPD could review and compile the responsive documents based on the aforementioned search, this task represents an unduly burdensome request for action.

Based on past requests, it would be reasonable to expect a trained FOIA officer to take at least three minutes to review one page of responsive documents. More than 175,000 pages of responsive documentation would require at least 8,750 hours to review, which is not inclusive of the time necessary to retrieve the documents, to the exclusion of all other tasks. These facts, paired with the short response time allowed by FOIA, make the task of identifying, collecting, and reviewing potentially responsive records in a timely manner unduly burdensome upon CPD. As a result, CPD has determined that compliance with your request is unduly burdensome and that CPD's burden to process your request outweighs the public's interest.

At this time, your request is unduly burdensome as currently written. Pursuant to Section 3(g) of FOIA, we would like to extend to you an opportunity to modify your request to make it more manageable. CPD encourages you to review your request to ascertain the specific details to your query. Unless and until a new FOIA request is submitted that specifies and narrows the records you are seeking, CPD will be unable to provide further records. Once this is determined, a new FOIA request can be submitted to CPD, specifying the records you would like CPD to provide.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at the following address:

Chicago Police Department
Attention: Freedom of Information
Office of Legal Affairs, Unit 114
3510 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60653
foia@chicagopolice.org

You have a right of review by the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor, who can be contacted at 500 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62706 or by telephone at 877-299-3642. You may also seek judicial review in the Circuit Court of Cook County under 5 ILCS 140/11.

Sincerely,

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