



February 5, 2019

VIA EMAIL

Ms. La Risa Lynch
The Chicago Reporter
Email: llynch@chicagoreporter.com

RE: 19-FOIA-023 DBE Info

Dear Ms. Lynch:

We are in receipt of your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.* (“FOIA”).

I. Background

On January 23, 2019, we received your request for all completed copies of Uniform Reports of DBE Commitments/Award and Payment forms that all agencies receiving federal monies from the US Department of Transportation must submit for the time period of 2009 to the present (“Request”). Your Request is granted in part and denied in part.

II. Responsive Documents

In response to your Request, Metra’s Office of Diversity & Civil Rights is providing you with the above requested records for Y2009 – Y2018 (“Responsive Documents”).

III. Partial Denial

While FOIA requires public bodies to provide access to public records generally, FOIA also authorizes units of government to withhold certain information. Therefore, Attorney Keith Pardonnet has determined that the personal financial information (tax identification number) of the party mentioned in the Responsive Documents is redacted because it is exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(b) of FOIA, which exempts “private information.” “Private information” means unique identifiers, including a person's social security number, driver's license number, employee identification number, biometric identifiers, personal financial information, passwords or other access codes, medical records, home or personal telephone numbers, and personal email addresses. 5 ILCS 140/2(c-5).

IV. Right of Review

You have the right to have the partial denial of your Request reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (“PAC”) of the Illinois Attorney General’s Office. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to:

Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
Fax: 217-782-1396

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E-mail: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us.

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of this partial denial letter. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this partial denial letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC.

You also have the right to seek judicial review of your partial denial by filing a lawsuit in the circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Haton
Freedom of Information Officer
FOIA@metrarr.com
FOIA Hotline #312-663-3642

Attachment