



March 27, 2024  
Via [160843-69437191@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:160843-69437191@requests.muckrock.com)  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 160843  
263 Huntington Ave  
Boston, MA 02115

**Subject: Chicago Park District response to FOIA request  
FOIA No. 5538**

Dear Requestor,

On March 20, 2024, the Chicago Park District (The "Park District") received your Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking the following:

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

[Part 1] Records sufficient to show the following email logs: A log of all emails to/from Heather Keil from March 1, 2024 through the date this request is processed. The logs should include but not be limited to: sender, recipient(s), date, time, subject line, and attachment name. Please include emails where Heather is cc'ed and bcc'ed and provide this log in an .xls format.

[Part 2] Records sufficient to show the following email logs: A log of all emails to/from Erika Saltzman from March 1, 2024 through the date this request is processed. The logs should include but not be limited to: sender, recipient(s), date, time, subject line, and attachment name. Please include emails where Erika is cc'ed and bcc'ed and provide this log in an .xls format.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes. Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 5 business days, as the statute requires.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes."

First, as a preliminary matter, FOIA only requires public bodies to provide existing public records and does not require public bodies to create records or compile information to complete a form. See 5 ILCS 140/3(a).

Second, the request as written is unduly burdensome pursuant to 5 ILC S140/3(g). Requests calling 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. Before invoking this exemption, the public body shall extend to the person making the request an opportunity to confer with it in an attempt to reduce the request to manageable proportions. If any public body responds to a categorical request by stating that compliance would unduly burden its operation and the conditions described above are met, it shall do so in writing, specifying the reasons why it would be unduly burdensome and the extent to which compliance will so burden the operations of the public body. Such a response shall be treated as a denial of the request for information.

**Administration Office**  
4830 S. Western Avenue  
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(312) 742-7529  
[www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com)

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*Mayor*

The request would require the review of over 3000 lines of a spreadsheet (if we were to compile the requested email information) to evaluate the emails, including subject line, for privileged, predecisional, and other confidential communications appropriately exempt pursuant to FOIA. See e.g. 5 ILCS 140/7 (f) and (m). The email logs you requested are for the email communications of two individuals working as attorneys in the District's Law Department, where many, if not most, of the emails would be exempt pursuant to attorney-client privilege. 5 ILCS 140/7(m).

Thereby, as your FOIA request is currently written is unduly burdensome on the daily operations of the Chicago Park District.

Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/3 (g), we are asking that you narrow your request to more manageable proportions. Please be as specific as possible concerning the type of documents you are requesting. If you know, please include the date, author, recipient and title or name of the records you are seeking.

Failure to narrow your request will result in a denial under 5 ILCS 140/3(g). Furthermore, if the request for documents is narrowed the Chicago Park District will not release any documents exempt under the Freedom of Information Act.

In the case of a denial, pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a) you may file a Request for Review with the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at:

Public Access Counselor  
Office of the Attorney General  
500 South 2nd Street  
Springfield, IL 62706  
(877) 299-3642

Thank you for your interest in obtaining documents from the Park District.

Sincerely,

Karen Choudhury  
Freedom of Information Counsel  
Attachment