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November 21, 2019

Via Email Only

Anonymous

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RE: Ocean County Clerk OPRA Request

Dear Anonymous

Thank you for your revised OPRA request. However, once again the list of documents types used by the Ocean County Clerk. This is an overly broad request. OPRA is a tool to obtain specific documents not merely information.

The Ocean County Clerk's website is free to view and obtain records at www.oceancountyclerk.com where land records may be accessed and searched by anyone either by municipality, lot and block, name, document type, etc. This request is not a request for a specific document under the New Jersey Open Public Records Act N.J.A. 471A-1 et. seq.

This request does not identify specific government records. As such, your request is invalid and your OPRA Request is denied. Please be advised that OPRA operates to make identifiable government records readily accessible for inspection, copying or examination. Pursuant *Bent v. Township of Stafford Township Police Department*, 381 N.J. Supra 30, 37(App. Div. 2005), OPRA does not "authorize a party to make a blanket request for every document a public agency has on file." As recognized by the Court, an OPRA Request is not intended as a research tool, but rather as an avenue for citizens to obtain specific government records. See *MAG Entertainment, LLC v. Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control*, 375 N.J. Super 534, 550(2005).

In light of the overly broad nature of your request for records, we ask that you identify with reasonable clarity the records desired. Failure to provide written clarification of your request will result in the closure of this OPRA Request.

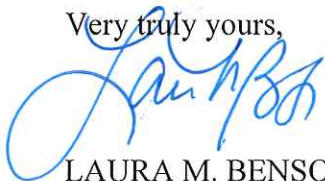
Advocating for you and the communities in which we live

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If your request for access to a government records has been denied or unfilled within seven (7) business days as required by law, you have a right to challenge the decision by the agency to deny access. Your option, you may either institute a proceeding in Superior Court of New Jersey or file a complaint with the Government Records Counsel (GRC), by completing the Denial of Access Complaint form. You may contact the GRC by toll free telephone at 866-850-0511, by mail at P.O. Box 819, Trenton, NJ 08625, by e-mail at grc@dca.state.nj.us, or at their website at www.state.nj.us/grc. The GRC can also answer other questions about the law. All questions regarding complaints filed with Superior Court should be directed to the Court Clerk in your County.

Very truly yours,



LAURA M. BENSON, ESQ.

LMB/sec

cc: Scott Colabella, County Clerk