



City of Linden
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
City Hall – 301 North Wood Avenue
(908) 474-8452
Fax: (908) 474-8451

Joseph C. Bodek, RMC, RPPO
City Clerk

Jennifer Honan
Deputy City Clerk

November 3, 2021

John

Opra+request-26763-1e9c9f2a@requests.opramachine.com

File Number: 2021-840

Re: OPRA Request –Records

Dear John :

The City of Linden received your Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request on November 3, 2021. The official Records Custodian, Joseph C. Bodek, received your OPRA request on November 3, 2021. As such, the seventh (7th) business day deadline to respond to your request is Monday, November 15, 2021. This response to your request is being provided to you on the 1st business day after the custodian's receipt of said request.

You requested the following: See Attached

Currently, your request is being denied. This request seeks information, asks questions or requires research, a proper request under OPRA must identify with reasonable clarity those documents that are desired, and a party cannot satisfy this requirement by simply requesting all of an agency's documents. See Bent v. Stafford Police Department, 381 N.J. Super. 30, 37 (App. Div. 2005). Custodians are not required to conduct research or create new records in response to an OPRA request. Please respond in writing and identify the specific government records sought so that we may process your request. Failure to provide written clarification of your request will result in the closure of this OPRA request.

If you feel that your request for access to a government record has been improperly denied or unfilled within the seven (7) business days required by law, you have a right to challenge the decision of the City of Linden to deny access. I have attached information, from the Government Records Council regarding the process to file a complaint.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Bodek
Custodian of Records
City of Linden

New Jersey Government Records Council ("GRC")



What to do if your request for a record has been denied

The New Jersey Open Public Records Act (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.) permits a person who believes that he or she has been unlawfully denied access to a public record either to file a complaint with the GRC or to file suit in Superior Court to challenge the decision and compel disclosure. This poster describes the procedures for taking such actions.

To file a complaint with the GRC:

- Visit the GRC's website at www.nj.gov/grc for information and to register your complaint. In the alternative, you may contact the GRC by telephone at 1-866-850-0511 or by e-mail at government.records@dca.nj.gov.
- When you file the written complaint, the GRC will offer both you and the public agency non-adversarial, impartial mediation. If mediation is not accepted or is not successful, the GRC will investigate the complaint.
- In some cases, the GRC can award attorney's fees to a complainant or impose a fine against a records custodian.
- There is no fee to file a complaint with the GRC.

To file a complaint in Superior Court:

- A requestor may start a summary (expedited) lawsuit in the Superior Court. A written complaint and order to show cause must be filed with the court.
- The court requires a filing fee, and you must serve the lawsuit papers on the appropriate parties.
- The court will schedule a hearing to resolve the dispute.
- If you disagree with the court's decision, you may appeal the decision to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court.
- If you are successful, you may be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees.
- You may wish to consult with an attorney to learn about initiating and pursuing a summary lawsuit in the Superior Court.
- Filing suit in Superior Court may result in a faster resolution, because the courts adjudicate cases every day, whereas the GRC only meets once a month.

Government Records Council, P.O. Box 819, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0819



Talia Pena-Marin <tmarin@linden-nj.gov>

2021-840

Fwd: OPRA request - Derek Armstead House Fire Documents

1 message

Joe Bodek <jbodek@linden-nj.gov>

Mon, Nov 1, 2021 at 8:22 AM

To: Talia Pena-Marin <tmarin@linden-nj.gov>, Jennifer Honan <jhonan@linden-nj.gov>

Talia,

Please see me on this issue. Thanks

Joe

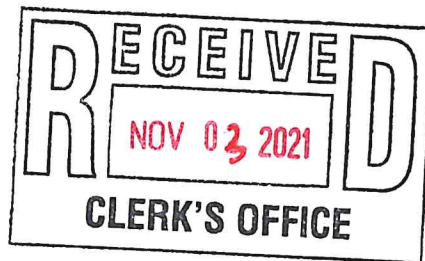
----- Forwarded message -----

From: John <opra+request-26763-1e9c9f2a@requests.opramachine.com>

Date: Sat, Oct 30, 2021 at 8:31 PM

Subject: OPRA request - Derek Armstead House Fire Documents

To: OPRA requests at Linden City <jbodek@linden-nj.org>



Dear Linden City, it's been speculations that Derek Armstead house fire was not an ordinary fire. What documents is on file far as what caused the fire . What object or objects was recovered (sterniles) no furniture etc. It's many things that raise a concern. Many things get swept under the rug this is one of them. Residents want to know the truth. If it was any foul play individuals should be held accountable.

This is a request for public records made under OPRA and the common law right of access. I am not required to fill out an official form. Please acknowledge receipt of this message.

Records requested:

Yours faithfully, Concerned Resident

Please use deliver records electronically via email to the below UNIQUE address for all replies to this request:
opra+request-26763-1e9c9f2a@requests.opramachine.com

Is jbodek@linden-nj.org the wrong address for OPRA requests to Linden City? If so, please contact us using this form:
https://opramachine.com/change_request/new?body=linden_city

Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. Our privacy and copyright policies:
<https://opramachine.com/help/officers>

View this OPRA request & responses online:
https://opramachine.com/request/derek_armstead_house_fire_docume

Please note that in some cases publication of requests and responses will be delayed.

If you find this service useful as an OPRA custodian, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's website.

--
Joseph C. Bodek
Municipal Clerk
Municipal Registrar, CMR
ABC Secretary

Office of the City Clerk

City of Linden
301 North Wood Avenue
Linden, New Jersey 07036
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Fax (908) 474-8451
jbodek@linden-nj.gov

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OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT (OPRA)

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