

TOWN OF WESTFIELD
Maureen Lawshe, Town Clerk
Custodian of Records
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
425 EAST BROAD STREET
WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07090
908-789-4030
www.westfieldnj.gov

REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT RECORDS
(N.J.S.A. 47:1A – 1, et seq.)
GOVERNMENT RECORDS REQUEST RESPONSE

TO: Anonymous88
opra+request-50705-560403af@requests.opramachine.com

DATE: September 18, 2023

The Town of Westfield received your Open Public Records (OPRA)/Common Law request on August 29, 2023, for which you sought access to the following:

- I am requesting any and all e-mail communication discussing/naming officer Ayad Taha and regarding his conduct on August 6th, 2023 from August 5th, 2023 to August 29, 2023. I am requesting only those e-mails sent/received by 1) officer Ayad Taha, 2) captain Jason Carter, or 3) chief of police Christopher Battiloro.
- the content and/or subject of the e-mail = any and all e-mail communication regarding officer Ayad Taha and his conduct on August 6th, 2023.
- the specific date or range of dates during which the e-mail was transmitted or the emails were transmitted = August 5, 2023 to August 29, 2023.
- a valid e-mail request must identify the sender and/or the recipient thereof). = those e-mails sent/received by 1) officer Ayad Taha, 2) captain Jason Carter, or 3) chief of police Christopher Battiloro.

Our office received clarification of the request on August 29, 2023 stating, " The title of the request states August 1, 2023 to August 29, 2023, but the body of the request states August 5, 2023-August 29, 2023. I am just providing some clarity, the dates requested are August 5th, 2023-August 29th, 2023."

Your request requires additional time to fulfill as adequate time is needed undergo a legal review of any records responsive to your request. OPRA allows custodians to seek extensions of time pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5.i. Specifically, OPRA states that, "the requestor shall be advised by the custodian when the record can be made available. If the record is not made available by that time, access shall be deemed denied."

Your request requires an extension of time until September 26, 2023.

If your request for access to a government record has been denied or unfilled within seven (7) business days required by law, you have a right to challenge the decision by the Town of Westfield to deny access. At your option, you may either institute a proceeding in the Superior Court of New Jersey or file a complaint with the Government Records Council (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 web site at www.state.nj.us/grc. The GRC can also answer other questions about the law. All questions regarding complaints filed in Superior Court should be directed to the Court Clerk in your County.

Dated: September 18, 2023



Maureen Lawshe, RMC
Town Clerk