



350 Hudson Avenue, Township of Washington, NJ 07676-4799

Office of the Township Clerk, Susan Witkowski, RMC

switkowski@twpofwashington.us

Phone: 201-664-4425

Fax: 201-664-8281

October 30, 2025/OPRA 427

Subject: Internal Review – Emergency Personnel 10 year

Request: *I am writing to request an internal review of Washington Township (Bergen)'s handling of my OPRA request 'Emergency Personnel 10 year'. Why wouldn't you be retaining such basic information on your personnel?*

Via email: opra+request-79394-fc71f13d@requests.opramachine.com

Concerned Citizen,

Please see attached the original reply dated August 20, 2025, and response.

Please also note that volunteer fire and ambulance services in New Jersey are generally not subject to OPRA requirements. The New Jersey Supreme Court established in Verry v. Franklin Fire District No. 1, 230 N.J. 285 (2017) that volunteer fire companies are not public agencies under OPRA because they are merely instrumentalities of instrumentalities rather than direct instrumentalities of political subdivisions. This principle extends to volunteer ambulance and rescue squads, as confirmed in Brooks v. Tabernacle Rescue Squad, 2015 WL 3669795 (App. Div. 2015). Not Reported in A.3d (2015).

Sincerely,

Susan Witkowski

Township Clerk
Township of Washington
201-664-4425/switkowski@twpofwashington.us



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August 20, 2025/OPRA 427

Via email: opra+request-79394-fc71f13d@requests.opramachine.com

Concerned Citizen,

The Township of Washington received your Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request on August 11, 2025. The official Records Custodian, Susan Witkowski, received your OPRA request on August 11, 2025. As such, the seven (7) business day deadline to respond to your request is August 20, 2025. This response to your request is being provided the 7th day after custodian's receipt of said request.

Your OPRA Request requested the following:

*"lists of name, title, rank, salary, hourly rate, or volunteer status, *demographic information about the age, gender and race/ethnicity, date of hire of each person for all fire, *police, and ambulance personnel serving or affiliated with the municipality in the following years 2015-2025"*

**There is no such record responsive to your request.*

Please note demographic information for 2023 and 2024 for the **POLICE DEPARTMENT ONLY is available on the Police Department website [Professional Standards - Township of Washington](#). There are no government records from 2015 to 2022.*

These records are being transmitted to you via electronic format as per your request. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5. b., the cost associated with this request is no charge.

This OPRA is considered complete.

If your request for access to a government record has been denied or unfilled within the seven (7) business days required by law, you have a right to challenge

the decision by the Township of Washington 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. Sincerely,

/s/ Susan Witkowski

Susan Witkowski, RMC

Township Clerk

Township of Washington

201-664-4425/switkowski@twpofwashington.us

OR 427

Susan Witkowski

From: concerned resident <opra+request-79394-fc71f13d@requests.opramachine.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 6:57 AM
To: Town Clerk
Subject: Internal review of OPRA request - Emergency Personnel 10 year

Caution: External E-mail

Dear Washington Township (Bergen),

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Open Public Records Act reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of Washington Township (Bergen)'s handling of my OPRA request 'Emergency Personnel 10 year'.

Why wouldn't you be retaining such basic information on your personnel?

A full history of my OPRA request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address: https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__opramachine.com_request_emergency-5Fpersonnel-5F10-5Fyear&d=DwICaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_Cdp gnVfiiMM&r=xe6LILGY4fBqf2qF2SfWyQPyzkOmFj7ck01xsbiI5ts&m=Yb_dQv56Ep3Kl35E6Oq4ERnRll6-VgqmVgJu7sRCKsv9EBRAsRz5RJBtOfEVPYtc&s=2CKgsHkPLYsZvl_i1poyHRVGuAlWLrtVVMOIhKpfhaw&e=

Yours faithfully,

concerned resident

Please use this UNIQUE email address for all replies to this request and no other:
opra+request-79394-fc71f13d@requests.opramachine.com

Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet.

Our privacy and copyright policies:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__opramachine.com_help_officers&d=DwICaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_Cdp gnVfiiMM&r=xe6LILGY4fBqf2qF2SfWyQPyzkOmFj7ck01xsbiI5ts&m=Yb_dQv56Ep3Kl35E6Oq4ERnRll6-VgqmVgJu7sRCKsv9EBRAsRz5RJBtOfEVPYtc&s=wM57u93pU2Af5xtYn1v6o52_Qbqru2WopzKwt5A5E4c&e=

View this OPRA request & responses online:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-
3A__opramachine.com_request_emergency-5Fpersonnel-5F10-
5Fyear&d=DwICaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-
v5A_CdpqnVfiiMM&r=xe6LILGY4fBqf2qF2SfWyQPyzkOmFj7ck01xsbiI5ts&m=Yb_dQv56Ep3
Kl35E6Oq4ERnRll6-
VgqmVgJu7sRCKsv9EBRAsRz5RJBtOfEVPYtc&s=2CKgsHkPLYsZvl_ilpoyHRVGuAlWLrtVV
MOIhKpfhaw&e=

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.
