



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 429

Subject: Internal Review

Request: I am writing to request an internal review of Washington Township (Bergen)'s handling of my OPRA request 'Emergency responder oaths'. your response appears to be incomplete. There are no oath forms for police before year 2018. There are no oath forms for ambulance or fire in 2016. There are no oath forms for ambulance in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022. My request clearly stated I wished for records for each year starting 2015 and ending 2025.

Via email: opra+request-79395-f7880eac@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 429

Via email: opra+request-79395-f7880eac@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.

The following records are being provided in their entirety and are responsive to your request:

List of all records responsive to OPRA request (include the number of pages for each record).	List of all records provided, <u>with redactions</u> , or denied in their entirety.	If records are disclosed with redactions, give a general nature description of the redactions.	If records were denied in their entirety, give a general nature description of the record.	List the legal explanation and statutory citation for the denial of access to records in their <u>entirety</u> or <u>with redactions</u> .
Oaths of Office (192 pages)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Personnel Action Forms Police Dept. (No such government records PRIOR to 2019) (148 pages)	Personnel Action Forms Police Dept. 2019-2025	Personal Identifying Information	N/A	N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1(20) Personal Identifying Information

- *Personnel Action Forms – Ambulance Personnel – No such government records.*
- *Personnel Action Forms – Fire Department – No such government records.*
- *“Recordings of any swear in ceremonies” Please visit our website, www.twpofwashington.us*

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 429

Susan Witkowski

From: concerned resident <opra+request-79395-f7880eac@requests.opramachine.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 6:56 AM
To: Town Clerk
Subject: Internal review of OPRA request - Emergency responder oaths

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 responder oaths'.

your response appears to be incomplete.

There are no oath forms for police before year 2018.

There are no oath forms for ambulance or fire in 2016. There are no oath forms for ambulance in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.

My request clearly stated I wished for records for each year starting 2015 and ending 2025.

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-5Fresponder-5Foaths&d=DwICaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_Cdp gnVfiiMM&r=xe6LILGY4fBqf2qF2SfWyQPyzkOmFj7ck01xsbiI5ts&m=XlRoMD_Vp17oxihpA-PU nIRDVDnR84-o_n7cL49XH6kKP53Ugpu00VxH0Cz9HlZx&s=n8MBMTdqp7LKT6Rbb9behOfz3bTcoQuAtwjP3ASgLi4&e=

Yours faithfully,

concerned resident

Please use this UNIQUE email address for all replies to this request and no other:
opra+request-79395-f7880eac@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=XlRoMD_Vp17oxihpA-PU nIRDVDnR84-o_n7cL49XH6kKP53Ugpu00VxH0Cz9HlZx&s=ptkO7BZ5znsaNxuc_r-VO766cqWdlSdkGePoNO7GRg4&e=

View this OPRA request & responses online:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__opramachine.com_request_emergency-5Fresponder-5Foaths&d=DwICaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_Cdp gnVfiiMM&r=xe6LILGY4fBqf2qF2SfWyQPyzkOmFj7ck01xsbiI5ts&m=XlRoMD_Vp17oxihpA-PU nIRDVDnR84-o_n7cL49XH6kKP53Ugpu00VxH0Cz9HlZx&s=n8MBMTdqp7LKT6Rbb9behOfz3bTcoQuAtwjP3ASgLi4&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.
