

Steven D. Bonville, Esq.
Chief of Staff**Michelle M. Smith, Esq.**
Clerk of the Superior Court**Kathryn Gilbertson Shabel, Esq.**
Deputy Clerk

Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex • P.O. Box 971 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0037

njcourts.gov • Tel: 609-815-2900 ext. 54200 •

June 11, 2024

Via Email: opra+request-60375-4fl daab4@requests.opramachine.com**Re: Request for Information/Records**

This letter is in response to the records/information request you submitted to the Rochelle Park Municipal Court, in relation to an Open Public Records Act (“OPRA”), which has been referred to the Superior Court Clerk’s Office. It is difficult to determine what you are specifically requesting, but it appears you are requesting records/information/data related to fines that have been issued and collected in relation to the illegal storing of property.

Please note that the Judiciary does not fall under the purview of OPRA. Court Rule 1:38 et seq. of the New Jersey Rules of Court governs public access to court records and administrative records. As such, this request is being reviewed pursuant to Rule 1:38.

The Judiciary provides public access to various reports and statistics on its website that may provide some of the information being sought (<https://www.njcourts.gov/public/publication-reports-statistics>). If more specific information is being sought, or you would like to ask for additional reports/statistics that are not provided publicly, please submit an official New Jersey Judiciary Records Request Form (https://www.njcourts.gov/sites/default/files/forms/10200_records_req.pdf), to request the specific information/records being sought.

Pursuant to Rule 1:38-13, “court records and administrative records are available only in the form in which they are maintained or indexed by the Judiciary. Requests by private individuals or entities for programming, searching, or compilation of records in a form other than as used for the Judiciary’s purposes will not be granted.” The Judiciary does not maintain and/or index records specific to fines issues and need specific case information (e.g., citation numbers, case numbers, party names, etc.) to be able to locate information within the Judiciary’s case jacket system.

Thus, the request for what fines were issued and collected within Rochelle Park Municipal

Court is denied in its current form. If you can narrow the scope of your request, to specific case information, date ranges, or other identifiable information within the Judiciary system our office will try to assist further.

Pursuant to Rule 1:38-10(b), denials of public access requests may be appealed to the Administrative Director of the Courts, Hon. Glenn A. Grant, P.O. Box 037, Trenton, NJ 08625-0037. Please note that your appeal must be submitted within thirty (30) calendar days of your receipt of this letter. The appeal should include a copy of your original record request, a copy of this letter and a detailed statement of reasons why you believe that the denial is inappropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle M. Smith", followed by a horizontal flourish.

Michelle M. Smith, Esq.
Clerk of the Superior Court