



**BOROUGH OF
WALLINGTON, NJ**
Incorporated December 31, 1894

24 Union Boulevard
Wallington, NJ 07057
Tel: 973-777-0318

From the office of:
Borough Administrator

April 27, 2020

VIA EMAIL

"Wallington Watchdog"

RE: OPRA Requests

Mx. Watchdog:

The Borough of Wallington ("Wallington") is in receipt of your eight (8) Open Public Records Act ("OPRA") requests submitted during the duration of the public health emergency related to the outbreak COVID-19. Most of these requests seeking an extensive number of documents.

On March 9, 2020 New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy declared a State of Emergency which has had an impact on Wallington and its vendors and professionals. Wallington is dealing with limited staff and numerous issues related to this emergency. Additionally, on March 18, 2020, Wallington closed its borough offices to the public and instituted limited work hours.

Governor Murphy additionally signed A3849 into law related to OPRA. This law changed the seven (7) day requirement to respond to OPRA requests removing and stating it, "shall not apply, provided, however, that the custodian of a government record shall make a reasonable effort, as the circumstances permit, to respond to a request for access to a government record".

Wallington is making a reasonable effort to respond to your requests. However, many of the documents you have requested are not easily accessible. Some are in the possession of employees who are currently not working. Other documents require the use of outside vendors to obtain or to review for privilege issues.

As such, Wallington is hereby notifying you that under the provisions of the new law, Wallington is making reasonable effort to respond to your requests by June 15, 2020. Notwithstanding, please consider tempering your right to obtain public documents with the prudence to consider the people who operate the Borough and their very real need to care for themselves, their coworkers and families. The documents you are requesting in serial fashion during an international health emergency will also be available for you to obtain once people are safe and we are all out of harm's way. Please consider this entreaty before you ask for submit your next request.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Hector Olmo,
Borough Administrator