

Dear Concerned Taxpayer:

The Township of Washington responds to your OPRA Request as follows:

Response to Item No. 1: See attached copy of Ordinance 99-10 establishing LOSAP and Ordinances 13-08, 16-11, 24-07 amending LOSAP Program. The remainder of your request for “any subsequent amendments for years 2000 through 2025” is overly broad, vague and fail to identify specific government records. Under OPRA, custodians are required to disclose only identifiable government records. OPRA does not require custodians to research files to discern which records may be responsive to a request. It does not allow open-ended searches of an agency’s files. See MAG Entm’t, LLC v. Division of Alcohol Beverage Control, 375 N.J. Super. 534 (App. Div. 2005); Bent v. Township of Stafford, 381 N.J. Super. 30 (App. Div. 2005); N.J. Builders Ass’n v. N.J. Council on Affordable Housing, 390 N.J. Super. 166, 179 (App. Div. 2007); and Rivera v. City of Passaic, GRC Complaint No. 2011-214 (July 31, 2012). An OPRA request is invalid and a custodian is not required to fulfill it when it “would require research and the collection of information from the contents of government records and the creation of new government records setting forth that research and information.” N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g).

The terms “any subsequent amendments” is over broad and would require the records custodian to conduct research among all records maintained by the agency over a 25-year period to locate and identify which, if any, would be responsive records. As such your request is an invalid OPRA request and is denied. If you wish to narrow and clarify your requests by providing specific government records you are seeking, please do so.

Response to Item No. 3: ***Annual budget records showing the line item appropriation for LOSAP Contributions for each fiscal year 2000-2025.***

NOTE: 2000 – 2007 are attached.

2008 to current can be found on our website:

[Budget & Financial Information - The Township of Washington](#)

Municipal Budget page 20.

Response to Items No. 2 and 4 through 11: Your requests as stated are overly broad, vague and fail to identify specific government records. Under OPRA, custodians are required to disclose only identifiable government records. OPRA does not require custodians to research files to discern which records may be responsive to a request. It does not allow open-ended searches of an agency’s files. See MAG Entm’t, LLC v. Division of Alcohol Beverage Control, 375 N.J. Super. 534 (App. Div. 2005); Bent v. Township of Stafford, 381 N.J. Super. 30 (App. Div. 2005); N.J. Builders Ass’n v. N.J. Council on Affordable Housing, 390 N.J. Super. 166, 179 (App. Div. 2007); and Rivera v. City of Passaic, GRC Complaint No. 2011-214 (July 31, 2012). An OPRA request is invalid and a custodian is not required to fulfill it when it “would require research and the collection of information from the contents of government records and the creation of new government records setting forth that research and information.” N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g).

The terms “any” and “all” and other broad and vague terms contained in your requests would require the records custodian to conduct research among all records maintained by the agency over a 25-year period to locate and identify which, if any, would be responsive records. As such your requests are invalid OPRA requests and are denied. If you wish to narrow and clarify your requests by providing specific government records you are seeking, please do so.