



CITY OF ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW

City Hall
50 Winfield Scott Plaza
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201-2462
Phone: (908) 820-4009 Fax (908) 352-8658

J. CHRISTIAN BOLLWAGE
Mayor

WILLIAM R. HOLZAPFEL
City Attorney

RAYMOND T. BOLANOWSKI
First Assistant City Attorney

ROBERT J. LENAHA, JR.
Special Counsel

JORGE A. ESTRADA
Special Counsel

SAMANTHA J. CASTRELOS
Special Counsel

August 12, 2020

VIA EMAIL ONLY

J. Christmas
Opra+request-14534-fae5a7bd@requests.opramachine.com

RE: OPRA Request
June 30, 2020

Dear J. Christmas:

The City of Elizabeth is in receipt of your request for records to the City Clerk dated June 30, 2020 pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq., (OPRA). The City of Elizabeth then requested additional time to respond to said request due to the March 16, 2020 legislation which modifies the deadline by which a public agency is required to respond to a request for government records during a period of emergency. Your itemized request seeks record(s) from different municipal departments. This letter will address your request in Item #1 as the rest of your requests have already been fulfilled.

Your OPRA request sought, in part:

All police reports and dispatch logs for landlord-tenant
disputes during the years 2018 and 2019.

Attached please find records responsive to your request. Please note that investigation reports can be found by keyword and this was done as per your request for "landlord-tenant disputes." The reports were reviewed for personal identifiable information, and unlisted phone numbers and dates of birth were redacted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1 and current case law, respectively.

Please note the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system cannot be narrowed by the field "landlord-tenant disputes," only "disputes," which generated thousands of logs for your requested time frame. OPRA does not require research which, in this case, would involve the review of every report tagged as a "dispute" to determine if it is a landlord-tenant dispute. "[T]he custodian is obligated to search her files to find the identifiable government records listed in the [OPRA request] . . . However, the Custodian is not required to research her files to figure out which records, if any, might be responsive." Donato v. Twp. of Union, GRC Complaint No.

J. Christmas
OPRA Request
Page 2

2005-182 (Jan. 31, 2007). Your request would require significant research that the custodian is not legally obligated to performed.

Thank you for your patience.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Samantha J. Castrelos
Samantha J. Castrelos
Special Counsel

Enclosure

cc: Grace Sequeira, Deputy Municipal Clerk