

MAYOR
Denice DiCarlo

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Megan Kerr
James Mehaffey
Adam Reid
Jim Robinson



WEST DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP

Municipal Building
400 Crown Point Road
West Deptford, New Jersey 08086
Phone (856) 845-4004

Acting Township Administrator
Lee Ann DeHart

Chief Finance Officer
Michael Kwasizur

Registered Municipal Clerk
Lee Ann DeHart

July 15, 2020

J. Womack
(Via email only: opra+request-14811-b24bb20a@requests.opramachine.com)

RE: OPRA and the Common Law Right of Access

Dear J. Womack:

The West Deptford Township Clerk's Office received your request for records pursuant to the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and New Jersey common law right of access on July 6, 2020. As such, the seven (7) business day deadline to respond to your request is July 15, 2020. This response to your request is being provided to you on the 7th business day after the custodian's receipt of said request.

The following records were requested:

----- Original message -----

From: "J. Womack" <opra+request-14811-b24bb20a@requests.opramachine.com>
Date: 7/3/20 6:53 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: Lee Ann DeHart <lDeHart@westdeptford.com>
Subject: [External]OPRA request - Request for Vacant/Abandoned, Delinquent and Various Other Properties

Dear West Deptford Township,

I appreciate your consideration of the following matter. Under OPRA and the Common Law Right of Access, I am requesting a current list of records for each of the following be delivered via e-mail:

- 1) All abandoned/vacant residential properties (Property Class 2)
- 2) All condemned properties
- 3) All residential properties with delinquent taxes
- 4) All residential properties for which a Lis Pendens notice has been filed or that are currently in probate
- 5) All properties that are absentee-owned
- 6) All properties with delinquent water and sewer which date back up to 1 year, including amounts owed
- 7) All properties currently listed with water shut-off notice
- 8) All properties with code violations, including the type of violation
- 9) All properties with notices of abatement

Again, I appreciate your attention to this matter and thank you in advance for your help.

Best Regards – J. Womack

Please use deliver records electronically via email to the below UNIQUE address for all replies to this request:
opra+request-14811-b24bb20a@requests.opramachine.com

Attached are the records you requested, provided as separate PDF files, in several emails due to the size of the files. Please note the following in response by your listings requested:

- 1) Vacant Registration Listing provided
- 2) No records available responsive to your request.
- 3) Tax Account Delinquent Report provided
- 4) Lis Pendens notice listing is not available; however, a list of In-rem Foreclosures West Deptford Township is pursuing is provided.
- 5) No records available responsive to your request.
- 6) Utility Aging Report by Property Location provided
- 7) West Deptford Township is not currently shutting water off due to Covid-19.
- 8) List of Open Violations provided
- 9) No records available responsive to your request. The Gloucester County Office of Assessment should be contacted for properties with notices of abatement.

Additionally, after consultation with the Township Solicitor, portions of these records have been redacted as follows:

Privacy/Personal Information. Portions of the identified record(s) containing personal information for which identified individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy have been redacted. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1; Executive Order No. 21 (McGreevey 2002); *Paff v. Ocean County Prosecutor's Office*, 235 N.J. 1 (2018); *Brennan v. Bergen County Prosecutor's Office*, 233 N.J. 330 (2018); *In the Matter of the New Jersey State Fireman's Association*, 230 N.J. 258 (2017); *Burnett v. County of Bergen*, 198 N.J. 408 (2009); *Nelson v. N.J. Department of Law & Public Safety*, No. 2013-124 (GRC 2014); *Merino v. Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus*, No. 2003-110 (GRC 2004).

These records are being transmitted to you via email, as per your request and as such, there are no charges for your requested records.

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 West Deptford Clerk's office 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,



Jill S. Magill

Deputy Clerk

jmagill@westdeptford.com

856-845-4004 ext. 174