



BOROUGH OF POMPTON LAKES

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VIA E-MAIL [opra+request-89530-5c9c7f6d@requests.opramachine.com]

Tony Michael

Re: Open Public Records Act Request

Dear Mr. Michael:

The Borough of Pompton Lakes ("Borough") records custodian is in receipt of your Open Public Records Act ("OPRA") request submitted on April 7, 2026. Your OPRA request seeks the following records:

Copies of ALL invoices for all fire extinguishers, kitchen fire suppression and fire alarm services from 2020 to present.

Please be advised that your request is overly broad, as it fails to identify with reasonable clarity any particular records sought. OPRA operates to make identifiable government records "readily accessible for inspection, copying, or examination." N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1. New Jersey courts have consistently held that OPRA does not countenance open-ended searches of an agency's files. MAG Entm't, LLC v. Div. of ABC, 375 N.J. Super. 534, 549 (App. Div. 2005); New Jersey Builders Ass'n v. New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing, 390 N.J. Super. 166 (App. Div.), cert. denied, 190 N.J. 394 (2007). Consequently, a proper request under OPRA "must identify with reasonable clarity those documents that are desired, and a party cannot satisfy this requirement by simply requesting all of an agency's documents." See e.g., Spectraserv, Inc. v. Middlesex Cty. Utilities Auth., 416 N.J. Super. 565, 576 (App. Div. 2010); Bent v. Twp. of Stafford Police Dep't, 381 N.J. Super. 30, 37 (App. Div. 2005). OPRA requests may not be a broad generic description of documents that require the custodian to search the agency's files and "analyze, compile, and collate" the requested information. Id.; see also Lagerkvist v. Office of Governor of State, 443 N.J. Super. 230, 237 (App. Div. 2015) (holding that OPRA does not convert a custodian into a researcher, which would have been the effect of the request). Here, your request is clearly deficient as it seeks any and all invoices related to fire extinguishers, fire suppression systems and fire alarms for the Borough over a six-year period, and your request purports to require the Borough's records custodian to conduct research in order to determine which invoices may potentially be responsive, which is beyond the legal obligations of a records custodian under OPRA. See Parreott v. Asbury Park School District, GRC Complaint Nos. 2016-20 & 2016-39 (Sept. 2017) (holding that the portion of the request seeking "all relevant documents" was invalid because it sought a class of various records and would have required the records custodian to conduct research in order to locate responsive records); see also Burke v. Ocean Cty., 2013 WL 6169154 (App. Div. 2013) (holding that an OPRA request is not the equivalent of lawsuit discovery). Your request is plainly more akin to a litigation discovery demand than a request for specifically identifiable records as OPRA requires. Accordingly, your request is invalid as it fails to comport with OPRA's specificity requirements.

Your OPRA request is now deemed answered and closed.

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth Brandsness, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Deputy Administrator