

MAYOR

James P. Mehaffey

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Megan Kerr
Ashley Morrell
Adam Reid
Jim Robinson

**WEST DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP****Municipal Building**

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

Township Administrator

Lee Ann DeHart

Chief Finance Officer

Michael Kwasizur

Registered Municipal Clerk

Lee Ann DeHart

December 19, 2023

Via email only (opra+request-55947-86ee60c8@requests.opramachine.com)

Nicholas D'Alonzo

Re: Open Public Records Act/Common Law Records Request

Dear Mr. D'Alonzo:

The West Deptford Township Records Custodian received your request for records pursuant to the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and the New Jersey common law right of access, dated after hours on December 8, 2023, on December 11, 2023. Accordingly, the initial seven (7) business day deadline to respond to your request under OPRA is December 21, 2023. This response is being provided on the fifth business day after receipt of your request.

Your records request was as follows:

From: Nicholas D'Alonzo <opra+request-55947-86ee60c8@requests.opramachine.com>
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 9:51 PM
To: Lee Ann DeHart <LDHart@westdeptford.com>
Subject: OPRA request - West Deptford Fire Department Facebook Page Blocked users/followers

Dear West Deptford Township,

This is a request for public records made under OPRA and the common law right of access. I am not required to fill out an official form. Please acknowledge receipt of this message.

Records requested:

West Deptford Fire Department Facebook page blocked users/followers

Yours faithfully,

Nicholas D'Alonzo

After consultation with the Township records attorney, your request is denied for the following reason(s):

Privacy/Personal Information. The requested records contain information for which identified persons have a reasonable expectation of privacy. 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); *Rise Against Hate v. Cherry Hill Township*, slip op., Docket Nos. A-3421-20, A-1440-21, A-1517-21 (App. Div. March 29, 2023); *North Jersey Media Group v. Township of Nutley*, slip op., Docket No. A-3483-14T3 (App. Div. September 30, 2016); *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).

Request does not implicate core purpose. The request as written does not further the core purposes of OPRA to maximize public knowledge about public affairs in order to ensure an informed citizenry and to minimize the evils inherent in a secluded process. *Burnett v. Cty. of Bergen*, 198 N.J. 408, 435 (2009); *Mason v. City of Hoboken*, 196 N.J. 51, 64 (2008); *Rise Against Hate v. Cherry Hill Township*, slip op., Docket Nos. A-3421-20, A-1440-21, A-1517-21 (App. Div. March 29, 2023).

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, RMC

Deputy Clerk

856-845-4004 ext. 174