

October 19, 2015

VIA E-MAIL

Ms. Christine Tressel

WLS-TV

Email: Christine.M.Tressel@abc.com

RE: 15-FOIA-204 Info – Metra Station Crimes

Dear Ms. Tressel:

We are in receipt of your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.* (“**FOIA**”).

I. Background

On October 5, 2015, we received your request for access to and a copy of any available public records including, but not limited to arrest or other police reports, documents or any other available information regarding criminal activity at the 241 train stations owned and operated by the Northeast Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation. Additionally, you requested all relevant documentation from September 1, 2014 to September 1, 2015 or the most current date available (“**Request**”).

We sent you an email on October 12th explaining we had contacted the Metra Police Department and were advised that for them to fulfill your request as written would require an individual to manually pull and review every call for service (which may or may not have generated a report), for any documents responsive to your request. A manual search would be necessary as their former data system (which was antiquated and not searchable) crashed in April this year, so much of the requested information would require the aforementioned manual pull and review. As such, the day-to-day operations within the police department would be disrupted in an attempt to fulfill your request as presently written. With this in mind, we asked if you would consider narrowing down the scope of your Request with the understanding that you could submit future requests for additional information. You responded to our email on October 13th asking to call to discuss the specifics of your Request. I responded to your email on October 14th, by providing you with my telephone number and asked that you call me at your convenience to discuss your Request. To date, we have not received a response from you. Accordingly, your Request is denied.

II. Denial

We are denying your Request as unduly burdensome under 5 ILCS 140/3(g), which states that a public body may deny a request where “compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information.” Your Request as written would require an individual to manually pull and review every call for service (which may or may not have generated a report), for any documents responsive to your request. A manual search would be necessary as the police department’s former data system (which was antiquated and not searchable) crashed in April this year, so much of the requested information would require the aforementioned manual pull and review. As such, the day-to-day operations within the police department would be disrupted in an attempt to fulfill

your request as presently written. Since you did not reply to our email requesting that you narrow down the scope of your Request, it has been determined by Attorney Thomas Stuebner that your Request falls squarely within the parameters of 5 ILCS 140/3(g).

Please note that you may resubmit your Request by narrowing down the scope of your Request to a specific area and/or time frame.

III. Right of Review

You have the right to have the denial of your Request reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (“PAC”) of the Illinois Attorney General’s Office. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to:

Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
Fax: 217-782-1396
E-mail: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us.

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of this denial letter. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this denial letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC.

You also have the right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in the circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Haton
Freedom of Information Officer
FOIA@metrarr.com