



07/31/2020

Brian Burns

RE: FOIA REQUEST of July 31, 2020, Reference # P594007-073120

Dear Brian :

The Chicago Police Department is in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. On July 31, 2020, the following request was received.

*am writing to request certain public records identified below pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (the "Act"). The specific purpose of this request is to obtain information for use in an article related to transparency in law enforcement which will be published for public consumption. As public trust in law enforcement is critical, dissemination of this information is in the public interest and I am requesting a fee waiver under Section 6(c) of the Act. I am requesting the following records: 1. A list of all drones (as defined at 725 ILCS 167/5) owned or operated by the Department. For each drone on the list, include the manufacturer of the drone, the model of the drone, the acquisition date, and the section or division within the Department responsible for operating the drone. 2. Any written policies, procedures, forms, reports, directives, memos, or other writings related to the use of drones by the Department or the management of information and data collected by the Department using drones. 3. A list of any third parties the Department has contracted with to operate drones on behalf of the Department, to provide training to the Department related to drones or information gathered from drones, or to consult in any way with the department regarding its drone program. 4. Any written policies, procedures, memos, or correspondence related to the Department's reporting obligations under 725 ILCS 167/35.*

FOIA requires each public body to promptly respond to a request for public records, either by complying or denying the request, within 5 business days after the public body has received the request. Under the Freedom of Information Act, a public body may extend the time to respond to a FOIA request by up to 5 business days.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Governor's issuance of a disaster proclamation, the

Chicago Police Department (CPD) is taking preventive measures in attempt to control the spread of the virus. Therefore, the CPD has chosen to allow Department members assigned to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Unit to work remotely and has partially closed its office due to sworn members assigned to administrative duties being deployed to the field for public safety.

In addition, as more and more individuals become ill or come into contact with someone infected with COVID-19 and are isolated or quarantined, members of CPD FOIA Unit may be unable to report to work. In such circumstances, CPD may assert exceptions outlined in 5 ILCS 140/3(e), particularly if responding to the request is unduly burdensome in the circumstances, requires review by an unavailable staff member, or requires resources to obtain records located off-site.

Please keep in mind that FOIA allows CPD and the requester to come to a mutually agreeable response period to comply with a FOIA request. Members of the public and media are asked to keep these considerations in mind and are strongly encouraged to work with public bodies to agree on reasonable and appropriate response times in light of the public health concerns we all face. Given that the length of the pandemic remains unknown and that staffing levels have been reduced, during this statewide emergency declaration, CPD may treat a FOIA request as unduly burdensome, in the event that it is not feasible for CPD to comply with or deny a request for public records within 5 business days after its receipt of the request or the time for response was properly extended under 5 ILCS 140/3(e) because it would unduly burden CPD's operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At this time, we are extending the time to respond to your request by an additional 5 business days.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 312-745-5308 or at the following address:

Chicago Police Department  
Attention: Freedom of Information Officer  
Office of Legal Affairs, Unit 114  
3510 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60653

Sincerely,

**Mirza Baig**  
Freedom of Information Officer  
Chicago Police Department

