



Erik Young <eyoung@ridgeview19.org>

FOIA Request- Vendor Contract

Erik Young <eyoung@ridgeview19.org>
To: foia@mcleancountytimes.com
Cc: Taryn Lopshire <tlopshire@ridgeview19.org>

Mon, Jan 5, 2026 at 1:10 PM

Dear Mr. Wang,

We are in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request dated January 1, seeking copies of all vendor contracts over \$1,000 for the current fiscal year.

Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.), any "person" may request public records. Effective January 1, 2026, Public Act 104-0438 amended FOIA to permit a public body that has a *reasonable belief that a request was not submitted by a person* to require the requester to verify **orally or in writing** that the requester *is a person*. 5 ILCS 140/4(j).

A "person" for purposes of FOIA includes an individual or an individual acting as an agent of a corporation, partnership, firm, organization, or association, acting individually or as part of a group.

Accordingly, **we request that you confirm, within five (5) business days of receipt of this notice, orally, that you are a person as defined under FOIA.** This confirmation may be submitted via **phone by calling (309) 723-5111.** Please let the recipient know who you are and that you are verifying that you are a real person for the purpose of a Freedom of Information Act Request.

Important:

- This verification requirement *does not allow us to request personal, private, or identifying information* — we are only seeking a response to a basic question confirming that you are a person within the meaning of the FOIA statute.
- The statutory response deadline is *tolled* until such verification is received.
- If verification is not received within 30 days from the date of this notice, we may *deny your FOIA request* pursuant to the statute.

Upon receipt of your confirmation that you are a person, we will continue processing your FOIA request and issue a response in accordance with the timelines set forth in the Illinois Freedom of Information Act.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact the FOIA Officer at the contact information above.

Sincerely,

Erik Young
Superintendent
Ridgeview C.U.S.D. #19

On Thu, Jan 1, 2026 at 9:03 AM <foia@mcleancountytimes.com> wrote:

To whom it may concern,

I am a news reporter from McLean County Times, a media organization committed to providing comprehensive and accurate news coverage on local governmental affairs. I am requesting the following records under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140, preferably in electronic format:

Copies of all vendor contracts over \$1,000 for the current school fiscal year.

As a member of the media, I am involved in gathering and reporting news to the public. Access to public records is essential for me to fulfill my professional responsibilities, which include holding public institutions accountable and providing transparency to the public. Given my role in disseminating information, I believe I am eligible for a fee waiver as a media professional.

Please let me know if you have any questions,

Owen Wang,

McLean County Times



Erik Young

Superintendent

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Illinois Association Of School Business Officials - Leadership Institute

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