



River Forest
Public Schools

Administration Building
7776 Lake St.
River Forest, IL 60305
District90.org
708-771-8282 phone
708-771-8291 fax

October 7, 2025

Steve Lefko
s_lefko@hotmail.com

VIA E-MAIL

RE: FOIA Request Received September 30, 2025

Dear Mr. Lefko,

This letter responds to your Illinois Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request received on September 30, 2025. While specifically excluding information related to Spring 2025 teacher contract negotiations, you requested:

1. the name of all agents, their title(s), and their firm name(s) for any agent currently providing legal and or mediation advice to district 90.
2. the name of the firm or firms currently under contract with district 90.
3. the names of all agents currently under contract with district 90.
4. District 90 documents, contracts, emails, correspondence, or communications otherwise, between district 90 and any agents of any firm currently under contract with district 90.

Please be advised that FOIA does not require the District to answer questions, and a request must reasonably identify a public record and not general data, information, or statistics. See *Chicago Tribune Co. v. Department of Financial & Professional Regulation*, 2014 IL App (4th) 130427, ¶¶ 32-33; *Kenyon v. Garrels*, 184 Ill. App. 3d 28, 31-32 (4th Dist. 1989).

In response to Parts 1 and 2 of your request, on a voluntary basis, the District is providing the following responsive information about current law firms and attorneys:

- Franczek P.C.
 - Nicki Bazer, Partner
 - Ares Dalianis, Partner
- Engler Callaway Baasten & Sruga, LLC
 - Cynthia Baasten, Partner
 - Teri Engler, Partner

- Abigail Rogers, Partner
- Robbins Schwartz, Ltd.
 - Ken Florey, Partner
 - Thomas C. Garretson, Partner
 - Philip H. Gerner III, Partner
 - Holly E. Jacobs, Associate
 - Natalie A. Jakubowski, Associate
 - Matthew M. Swift, Associate

In response to Part 3 of your request, it is unclear what the phrase “all agents currently under contract” refers to, and this phrase does not reasonably identify a public record.

Partial Undue Burden Designation

In response to Part 4 of your request, the District has determined this part of your request is categorical in nature and would be unduly burdensome to comply with under FOIA Section 3(g). 5 ILCS 140/3(g). Notably, this part of your request seeks all documents exchanged between the District and “any agents of any firm” without any time limitation, and the only subject matter limitation is the exclusion of Spring 2025 teacher contract negotiations. Based on its interpretation that this part of your request relates to communications with any law firm providing services to the District, the District conducted a preliminary search and determined that complying with this part of your request would require collecting and processing more than 5,000 potentially responsive emails with each law firm, not including attachments, and a total of more than 30,000 potentially responsive records.

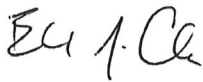
In addition to collecting all the potentially responsive records, complying with this part of your request as presently phrased would require the District to review each record to determine whether it is responsive and whether part or all of the record is exempt from disclosure under FOIA Sections 7(1) or 7.5. This review could only be conducted by an administrator and/or the District’s legal counsel, as they would be the only individuals who have the necessary competence and discretion to determine what FOIA exemptions may apply to these records. It is reasonable to anticipate that a large portion of the records would be exempt from disclosure, as they would consist primarily of attorney-client privileged communications, predecisional records, and student records. The District has determined that a review of such a large volume of records conducted by an administrator would disrupt the work of the District, as this would prevent the administrator from attending to critical duties for extended periods of time, contrary to the intent of FOIA. Alternatively, if the District’s legal counsel conducted the review, the District would incur substantial legal fees, to be paid from public funds.

For these reasons, the District has determined that this part of your request would be unduly burdensome for the District to comply with, and the burden on the District would outweigh any public interest in the information. See 5 ILCS 140/3(g). The Illinois Attorney General’s Public Access Counselor (“PAC”) has previously determined that a request seeking all

records within a category can be unduly burdensome under FOIA Section 3(g) without an identifiable public interest in disclosure of all of the records that outweighs the burden of compliance with the request. See, e.g., Ill. Att'y Gen. PAC Req. Rev. Ltr. 2021-PAC-S-0260, issued June 23, 2021 (determining review of more than 1,000 pages of material was unduly burdensome without a request tailored to yield records of a matter of significant public interest); Ill. Att'y Gen. PAC Req. Rev. Ltr. 54377, issued May 18, 2021, at 4 (request for all of a principal's e-mails for a specified time period, totaling more than 500 e-mails, was unduly burdensome because request was not limited to a matter of public interest and compliance would impose a significant burden); Ill. Att'y Gen. PAC Req. Rev. Ltr. 47671, issued August 10, 2017, at 4 (request for 882 pages of e-mails containing the broad term "union" was unduly burdensome where the public body would have to take a substantial amount of time to review the e-mails, and the requester did not articulate a public interest in all of the e-mails that outweighed the burden).

In compliance with FOIA Section 3(g), the District is extending you an opportunity to narrow this part of your request to a manageable proportion or to confer about the same. If you do not reduce your categorical request to a manageable scale, as determined by the District, the District will exercise its right under Section 3(g) of FOIA to deny this part of your records request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Condon".

Ed Condon, PhD
Superintendent, FOIA Officer

From: Steve Lefko s_lefko@hotmail.com
Subject: Freedom of Information Act Response
Date: September 30, 2025 at 1:38 PM
To: Tracy Gutierrez gutierrez@district90.org, Ed Condon condone@district90.org

SL

Happy Tuesday Ed,

This is a Freedom of Information Act Request of River Forest School District 90 on September 30, 2025.

In all subsequent numbered requests, I am specifically not requesting information that would disclose the past, present, or future negotiations pertaining to the Spring 2025 teacher contract negotiations.

1. Please provide the name of all agents, their title(s), and their firm name(s) for any agent currently providing legal and or mediation advice to district 90.
2. Please provide the name of the firm or firms currently under contract with district 90.
3. Please provide the names of all agents currently under contract with district 90.
4. Without disclosing any contract negotiations, provide District 90 documents, contracts, emails, correspondence, or communications otherwise, between district 90 and any agents of any firm currently under contract with district 90.

No information requested within pertains to the past, present, or future standing of negotiations.

You may provide this information digitally or in hard copy.

Much thanks
Steve Lefko

From: Tracy Gutierrez <gutierrez@district90.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 12:13 PM
To: s_lefko@hotmail.com
Subject: Freedom of Information Act Response

Good Afternoon,

Attached, please find the response to your FOIA received in our office on September 23, 2025.

Tracy Gutierrez
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
River Forest Public Schools District 90
708-771-8282
gutierrez@district90.org



River Forest
Public Schools