

**River Forest  
Public Schools**

**Administration Building**  
7776 Lake Street  
River Forest, IL 60305  
Phone: 708-771-8282  
Fax: 708-771-8291

April 7, 2021

Ross Lissuzzo  
RLissuzzo@msn.com

**VIA EMAIL**

**Re: March 31, 2021 FOIA Request**

Dear Mr. Lissuzzo:

River Forest School District 90 is in receipt of your FOIA request received by the District on March 31, 2021. This letter serves as the District's response to your FOIA request which seeks the following:

*I am requesting, via a formal FOIA request, all documents, letters and email correspondence around the issue of Scott Hall's eligibility to be a substitute teacher, complaints about him and any related letters, emails etc. that the district has received or sent about this election including but not limited to the use of the A-Z app.*

**Unduly Burdensome Designation**

As phrased, your request is categorical in nature and does not contain any limiting language or timeframe. In an effort to determine whether complying with your categorical request spanning an undefined time would unduly burden the operations of the District, the District conducted an initial investigation and preliminary search for responsive records using terms from your request. The preliminary search, without any specific timeframe and utilizing terms from your request, yielded over 75,000 records which may be potentially responsive to your requests. Based on scope of the search efforts that would need to be undertaken in order to determine if additional records are responsive to any of the FOIA request and whether the records contain any exempt information, your request as now phrased would unduly burden the District's operations.

The PAC has previously determined that a request seeking all records within a category over an extended period of time, which would require the public body to conduct an extensive search for and review of responsive records, is unduly burdensome under FOIA § 3(g) in the absence of 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. 20002, issued August 29, 2012, at 3 (determining a request for all grievance records spanning a 12-month period was unduly burdensome); Ill. Att'y Gen. PAC Req. Rev. Ltr. 21102, issued November 19, 2013, at 3-4 (determining a request for financial records spanning a 5-year period was unduly burdensome); Ill. Att'y Gen. PAC Req. Rev. Ltr. 40245, issued April 21, 2016 (determining that a request for all school district employee emails pertaining to referendums over a ten-month period was unduly burdensome); Ill. Att'y Gen. Req. Rev.

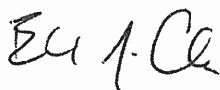
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Ltr. 57226, issued May 30, 2019 (determining that public body met the burden for denial as unduly burdensome in connection with a request for all emails between two individuals over a six month period of time where no subject or discernible public interest could be identified); see also, *National Ass'n of Criminal Defense Lawyers v. Chicago Police Department*, 399 Ill. App. 3d 1, 17 (1st Dist. 2010) ("A request that is overly broad and requires the public body to locate, review, redact and arrange for inspection a vast quantity of material that is largely unnecessary to the [requester's] purpose constitutes an undue burden.").

In addition to the extensive search efforts described above, the District would also have to examine and evaluate each and every part of the record identified to determine whether it was responsive to your request and whether part or all of each is exempt from disclosure under FOIA Sections 7 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. Further, it is reasonable to anticipate that any responsive records may contain exempt content, including but not limited to FOIA Sections 7(1)(b) and 7(1)(c). The District estimates that it would take additional time to conduct a review of the potentially responsive documents and analyze whether to redact or withhold exempt content. Such a review conducted by an administrator would gravely disrupt the work of the District, as this would prevent the staff from attending to critical duties for extended periods of time, contrary to the intent of FOIA. Alternatively, if the District's legal counsel conducts the review, the District would incur substantial legal fees, to be paid from public funds. The District would then have to prepare a written response in support of any exempt content contained within the records.

In view of all of the above, the District believes your categorical request would be unduly burdensome for the District to comply with and the burden on the District outweighs any possible public interest in the information. Therefore, in compliance with FOIA Section 3(g), the District is extending you an opportunity to narrow 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 your records request.

Sincerely,

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

Edward J. Condon, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

From: **Ross Lissuzzo** [rlissuzzo@dcps.dc.gov](mailto:rlissuzzo@dcps.dc.gov)  
Subject: FOIA Request  
Date: March 31, 2021 at 9:45 AM  
To: [caroline.edelman@dcps.dc.gov](mailto:caroline.edelman@dcps.dc.gov), [thomas.reed@dcps.dc.gov](mailto:thomas.reed@dcps.dc.gov)  
Cc: [sarah.hall@dcps.dc.gov](mailto:sarah.hall@dcps.dc.gov)

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Ed and Rich:

Hope all is well.

I am troubled by what is happening in our community and don't know what to believe anymore. The only way I know how to understand an issue is to read and study the materials for myself.

I am requesting, via a formal FOIA request, all documents, letters and email correspondence around the issue of Scott Hall's eligibility to be a substitute teacher, complaints about him and any related letters, emails etc. that the district has received or sent about this election including but not limited to the use of the A-Z app.

I am sorry it has come to this and I recognize such requests take time away of the good work you all are doing. However, there always seems to be a tipping point and our community just reached it and I am extremely saddened and disappointed in our collective community.

If you would like to talk about this or suggest I make a more useful request I am willing to listen and talk. 312 802 0745.

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Thank you,

Ross