

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 96

3340 S. Harlem Ave. Riverside, IL 60546

708-447-5007

708-447-3252 fax

www.district96.org



February 17, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Max Binnington foia@judiciocracy.com

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Mr. Binnington:

On February 2, 2026, Riverside School District 96 (the "District") received your Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request. The District extended its time to respond pursuant to Section 3(e) of the FOIA. The District sent you a partial response on February 13, 2026, although a final response was not due until February 17 due to the President's Day Holiday. The response constitutes the District's complete response to your requests. Your requests and the District's responses are as follows:

Request 1: All bills from external attorneys or law firms for the year 2024, and through July 18, 2025, for 2025.

Response: Enclosed are records in the District's possession that are responsive to your request. I redacted private financial information and Federal Tax Exemption identification numbers, which are exempt from disclosure under the FOIA. 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b). I also redacted signatures, which constitute personal information under the FOIA. 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c). Providing such information would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, and the release of such information would be objectionable to a reasonable person.

Since your request for bills does not include a specific request for narrative work descriptions, and it is unclear that you are requesting such information, the District redacted these portions of the records in their entirety so you could see the attorneys that worked for the District and the amount of time billed, in response to your Request 4 below. The enclosed invoices provide the total amount billed, the attorneys who billed the work, and the time billed. Since you did not specifically request the descriptions, we assume you are satisfied with the information provided. To also provide the descriptive information, which you did not specifically request, the District would have to engage its outside counsel at significant expense to carefully review 18 months and hundreds of pages of records to carefully redact exempt information. This exempt information could include attorney/client information exempt under 7(1)(m), student record information exempt under 7.5(r), personal information exempt under 7(1)(c), collective bargaining strategy information exempt under 7(1)(p), among other exemptions. The outside attorney engagement would take significant hours at an extraordinary cost. To properly apply redactions of exempt attorney-client privileged information over 18 months of separate legal bills would require

several hours of careful outside attorney review at considerable expense to the District and its taxpayers, and would likely be unduly burdensome under 3(g) of the FOIA. Since you did not clarify that you, in fact, want that information, the District did not undertake that time-consuming and costly exercise. If, however, you indeed seek specific

attorney work descriptions, please let us know, and we will review responsive, non-exempt records upon request after thorough review by our attorneys, unless we determine that such a request is unduly burdensome. We, however, respectfully request that you consider reducing the duration of bills or agree to a longer response time frame. If we are correct in our assumption that you are not interested in the descriptive information and are satisfied with just the bills, you can disregard the above.

Request 2: All engagement agreements with attorneys or law firms affiliated with any of the legal bills for the time period in item #1.

Response: The District is currently searching for records potentially responsive to this request. To the extent the District locates any responsive records, it will supplement its response to include those records by Tuesday, February 17, 2026. This is within the timeframe for the District's response under the FOIA, as the District received your request on February 2, 2026, and February 16, 2026, is a holiday.

Request 3: All other engagement agreements with attorneys or law firms executed in 2024 and in 2025 through July 18, 2025, not affiliated with any legal bills produced in item #1.

Response: The District is currently searching for records potentially responsive to this request. To the extent the District locates any responsive records, it will supplement its response to include those records by Tuesday, February 17, 2026. This is within the timeframe for the District's response under the FOIA, as the District received your request on February 2, 2026, and February 16, 2026, is a holiday.

Request 4: Documents showing any and all attorneys or legal professionals (attorneys, law firms, law clerks, paralegals, and the like) who appeared on behalf of, represented, advised, or otherwise counseled the entity in 2024, and for 2025 through July 18, 2025

Response: This information is contained in the bills responsive to Request 1 above. To the extent the District locates any additional responsive records, it will supplement its response accordingly, as described fully in the response to Request 1 above.

If you disagree with the nature of the records provided to you in response to your request, please reach out to me. Similarly, if you believe that this response is an improper denial of your request, I invite you to discuss your objections with me. You have the right to have the denials reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by contacting the PAC at: Public Access Counselor, Office of the Attorney General; 500 South 2nd Street; Springfield, Illinois 62701; Fax: 217-782-1396; E-mail: public.access@ilag.gov; Phone: 1-877-299-3642. If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days after the date of the denial letter. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a).

Please note that you must include a copy of your original request for documents and the 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 State circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha Ryan-Toye". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a stylized "T" at the end.

Dr. Martha Ryan-Toye,
Freedom of Information Act Officer