

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by Journal Inquirer, Complainant	)	Report of Hearing Officer
	)	
against	)	Docket #FIC76-206
	)	
Town of Vernon; Planning Depart- ment of the Town of Vernon; and	)	January 3 , 1977
Laurie Glass, Community Develop- ment Specialist of the Town of	)	
Vernon, Respondents	)	

The above captioned matter was heard as a contested case on December 23, 1976, at which time the complainant and the respondents appeared and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found:

1. The respondents are public agencies as defined by §1(a) of P.A. 75-342.
2. By letter dated November 22, 1976, the complainant sought access to inspect and copy the addresses of twenty-three housing units to be rehabilitated; the amount of the grant or loan for each unit; the general nature of the work for which each grant or loan was approved and the name of the contractor or contractors performing said work.
3. By letter dated November 29, 1976, the respondent development specialist offered limited access to the information requested from which the complainant appealed by letter filed with this Commission on December 6, 1976.
4. The information requested is maintained and kept in the files of the respondent planning department and are public records within the meaning of §1(d) of P.A. 75-342.
5. The respondents contend that the requested information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to §2(b)(1) and §2(b)(7) of P.A. 75-342.
6. It is found that the requested information is not kept in personnel or medical files and similar files within the meaning of §2(b)(1) of P.A. 75-342 and are therefore not exempt from disclosure thereunder.
7. §2(b)(7) of P.A. 75-342, in relevant part, exempts from disclosure statements of personal worth or personal

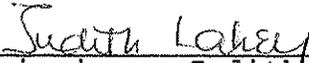
financial data required by a licensing agency. It is also found that the respondent planning department and the respondent development specialist are not licensing agencies within the meaning of §2(b)(7). Consequently, it is concluded that §2(b)(7) of P.A. 75-342 does not exempt the requested documents from disclosure in this case.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above captioned complaint:

1. The respondents shall forthwith provide access to the information described in paragraph 2, above, so that the complainant may inspect or copy same in accordance with P.A. 75-342.

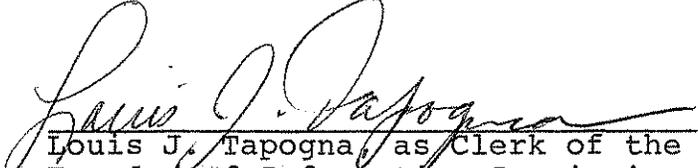
2. The Commission notes that while some applicants may be reticent to disclose otherwise confidential information, in view of the foregoing, any exceptions to public disclosure in this regard must be mandated by statute and is therefore within the exclusive province of the General Assembly.

3. If the requested information is not available in a document amenable to public disclosure because those documents in which it is contained have other exempt material which cannot be easily covered and copied, this must be accomplished by some process of abstraction.

  
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Commissioner Judith Lahey

As Hearing Officer

Approved by order of the Freedom of Information Commission on  
January 26, 1977.

  
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Louis J. Tapogna, as Clerk of the  
Freedom of Information Commission