

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by  
John T. Kerrigan,

Complainant

Final Decision

against

Docket #FIC78-246

Commissioner of Administrative  
Services of the State of  
Connecticut,

May 9, 1979

Respondents

The above captioned matter was heard as a contested case on January 30, 1979, at which time the complainant and the respondent appeared, stipulated to certain facts, and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

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

1. The respondent commissioner is a public agency as defined by §1-18a(a), G.S.
2. By letter dated November 20, 1978, the complainant requested from the respondent commissioner the names and addresses, by agency, of all employees of the state of Connecticut.
3. Having failed to receive a written reply to his request within four business days, the complainant filed the present letter of appeal with this Commission on December 8, 1978.
4. The requested information may be retrieved by the respondent commissioner from a state operated computer bank wherein it is stored.
5. The respondent commissioner first contends that the disclosure of such information is prohibited under §4-191 as constituting "personal data" as defined in §4-190(i), G.S.
6. The respondent commissioner is required to establish and maintain a complete roster of the employees and officers in the state service, and their respective departmental assignments, pursuant to §5-200(e), G.S. of the State Personal Act.
7. Such information is required to be open under §5-200(g), G.S.
8. A statute of specific applicability overrides a statute of general applicability. In this regard, §5-200, G.S. of the State Personnel Act is specifically applicable to the disclosure of information kept pursuant thereto and which is the subject of the instant request.

9. Lastly, the requested information does not constitute "personal data" within the meaning of §4-190(i), G.S.

10. It is found that §4-191, G.S. does not provide an exception to the mandatory disclosure of the requested information, as provided by §1-19(a), G.S.

11. The respondent commissioner further contends that the requested information is exempted under §1-19(b)(2), G.S. as constituting "personnel or medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute an invasion of personal privacy."

12. The respondent commissioner did not prove that disclosure of the requested information would constitute an invasion of the personal privacy of any individual.

13. There is no right of privacy with respect to information which relates to the conduct of the public's business.

14. The identity of those individuals who compose government is manifestly related to the conduct of the public's business. In this regard, knowledge of a residential address is, in many cases, the only way in which to accurately identify the individual.

15. It is further found that §1-19(b)(2), G.S. does not provide an exception to compelled disclosure.

16. It is concluded that the respondent commissioner denied the complainant the right to inspect or copy a public record.

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

1. The respondent commissioner shall, within three weeks of the date of issuance of Notice of Final Decision hereof, provide the complainant with the requested list of names and addresses, by agency, of all employees of the State of Connecticut.

Approved by order of the Freedom  
of Information Commission

  
Leslie Ann McGuire  
Clerk of the Commission