

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Shannon Carter,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2025-0005

Community Services Administrator,
Community Services Administration, City
of New Haven; Community Services
Administration, City of New Haven; and
City of New Haven,

Respondents

November 19, 2025

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on May 14, 2025, at which time the complainant and the respondents appeared, stipulated to certain facts and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint. This case was consolidated for the purpose of the hearing with Docket #FIC 2025-0003, Shannon Carter v. Director, Department of Public Works, City of New Haven, Department of Public Works, City of New Haven; and City of New Haven (final decision pending) (“Docket #FIC 2025-0003”). The Commission takes administrative notice of the evidence, including the testimony in Docket #FIC 2025-0003.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found and conclusions of law are reached:

1. The respondents are public agencies within the meaning of §1-200(1), G.S.
2. It is found that, by email dated December 4, 2024, the complainant requested electronic copies of the following records:
 - (a) “clearing of any homeless encampment, single tent, or individual camp for the period of January 2018 – November 2024, including any breakdowns of overtime hours;”
 - (b) “contracts between the city and any environmental consultant or cleaning organization for purpose of mitigation or clean-up after the clearing of any homeless encampment, single tent, or individual camp for the period of January 2018 – November 2024;”
 - (c) “the hours and labor costs for any personnel and equipment costs from the Department of Public Works for the purpose of removing or clearing any homeless encampment, single tent, or

individual camp for the period of January 2018 – November 2024;” and

- (d) “the hours and labor costs for any personnel and equipment costs from any other city department for the purpose of removing or clearing any homeless encampment, single tent, or individual camp for the period of January 2018 – November 2024.”

3. It is found that, by email dated December 4, 2024, the respondents acknowledged the complainant’s request, described in paragraph 2, above.

4. It is found that, by email dated December 16, 2024, the complainant requested an update on the status of her request described in paragraph 2, above.

5. By letter of complaint, received and filed January 6, 2025, the complainant appealed to this Commission, alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information (“FOI”) Act by failing to provide the records described in paragraph 2, above.

6. Section 1-200(5), G.S., provides:

“[p]ublic records or files” means any recorded data or information relating to the conduct of the public’s business prepared, owned, used, received or retained by a public agency, or to which a public agency is entitled to receive a copy by law or contract under 1-218, whether such data or information be handwritten, typed, tape-recorded, videotaped, printed, photostated, photographed or recorded by any other method.

7. Section 1-210(a), G.S., provides, in relevant part:

[e]xcept as otherwise provided by any federal law or state statute, all records maintained or kept on file by any public agency, whether or not such records are required by any law or by any rule or regulation, shall be public records and every person shall have the right to ... (3) receive a copy of such records in accordance with section 1-212.

8. Section 1-212(a), G.S., provides, in relevant part: “[a]ny person applying in writing shall receive, promptly upon request, a plain, facsimile, electronic or certified copy of any public record.”

9. It is concluded that the requested records, to the extent they exist and are maintained by the respondents, are public records within the meaning of §§1-200(5) and 1-210(a), G.S.

10. At the hearing on this matter, the complainant stipulated that her allegations against the respondents, here, are the same as those alleged in Docket #FIC 2025-0003, arguing that the respondents should have records responsive to her request described in paragraph 2, above, indicating the hours worked and associated costs of clearing homeless encampments, tents, and individual camps for the applicable time period.

11. With regard to the complainant's request described in paragraph 2(b), above, the respondents credibly testified, and it is found, that they did not enter into any contracts with any outside organizations related to the clearing of homeless encampments, tents, and individual camps. The respondents also testified, and it is found, that they do not maintain any contracts responsive to the complainant's request described in paragraph 2(b), above.

12. With regard to the complainant's requests described in paragraphs 2(a), 2(c), and 2(d), above, the respondents credibly testified, and it is found, that they did not track the hours, overtime, or costs, associated with the clearing of homeless encampments, tents, and individual camps for the applicable time period. The respondents also testified, and it is found, that they do not maintain any records responsive to the complainant's requests described in paragraphs 2(a), 2(c), and 2(d), above.

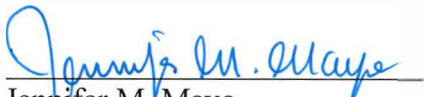
13. Based upon all of the foregoing, it is found that the respondents do not maintain records responsive to the complainant's December 4, 2024 records request.

14. It is therefore concluded that the respondents did not violate the disclosure provisions of §§1-210(a) and 1-212(a), G.S., as alleged in the complaint.

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

1. The complaint is dismissed.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of November 19, 2025.

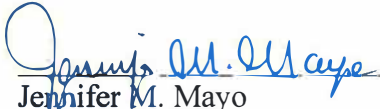

Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-180(c), G.S., THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF EACH PARTY AND THE MOST RECENT MAILING ADDRESS, PROVIDED TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION, OF THE PARTIES OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.

THE PARTIES TO THIS CONTESTED CASE ARE:

SHANNON CARTER, 11 Clark Street, Apt 1, New Haven, CT 06511

COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR, COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, CITY OF NEW HAVEN; COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, CITY OF NEW HAVEN; AND CITY OF NEW HAVEN, 165 Church Street, New Haven, CT 06510


Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission