

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Ralph Neunteufel,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2025-0294

Chair, Planning and Zoning Commission,
Town of Easton; Planning and Zoning
Commission, Town of Easton; and Town
of Easton,

Respondents

April 22, 2026

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on October 10, 2025, at which time the complainant and the respondents 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 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 on April 21, 2025, the complainant submitted a records request to the respondents which read as follows:

There were two violations issued to 740 Stepney Road regarding earthwork operations and special flood regs under the 1998 Zoning Regulations. I'd like copies of those. I'd also like V#05-143 and the [cease and desist] letter associated.

3. By complaint received and filed on April 25, 2025, the complainant appealed to the Commission alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act by failing to respond to his April 21, 2025 request, described in paragraph 2, above.

4. Section 1-206(a), G.S., provides in relevant part that:

Any denial of the right to inspect or copy records provided for under section 1-210 shall be made to the person requesting such right by the public agency who has custody or control of the public record, in writing, ***within four business days of such request***. . . Failure to

comply with a request to so inspect or copy such public record ***within the applicable number of business days shall be deemed to be a denial.***

(Emphasis added).

5. As the Commission noted in Docket #FIC 2018-0117, Noah Snyder v. Donna Patchen, Assessor, City of Torrington et al. (October 24, 2018),

it is well settled that the law does not require a public agency to provide a copy, or to allow inspection of, public records “within four business days” of the request. . . .

Rather, §1-206, G.S. . . . simply provides a requester with the ability to file an appeal in the event an agency fails to respond to the request. ***After four business days have elapsed***, if no response is received from an agency, then such non-response is deemed a denial for purposes of triggering the requester’s right to file an appeal without having to wait indefinitely for a response that may never be forthcoming.

(Emphasis added), citing Docket #FIC 1999-494, Burton M. Weinstein v. Assistant Attorney General, State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General, et al. (May 10, 2000); see also Docket #FIC 2016-0506, Valayshia Brookins v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Dept. of Emergency Services and Public Protection, et al. (May 24, 2017) (“It is concluded that the failure to deny a request ***within*** four business days simply ***triggers a requester’s right to file a complaint with the Commission.*** . . .”) (emphasis added.); see also City of Bridgeport v. Freedom of Info. Comm’n, 222 Conn. App. 17, 49-50 (2023), citing West Hartford v. Freedom of Info. Comm’n, 218 Conn. 256, 261-62 (1991) (“§1-206. . . ‘merely ensures an expedited right of appeal for those who do not desire to await a written denial.’”)

6. As found in paragraphs 2 and 3, above, the complainant made his request for records to the respondents on April 21, 2025, and, having received no response from the respondents, filed his complaint with the Commission on April 25, 2025.

7. It is found that the complainant filed his complaint to the Commission *on* the fourth business day, and, accordingly, did not wait until “after four business days [had] elapsed” to file his complaint, as is required by §1-206(a), G.S., where a public agency does not respond to a records request.

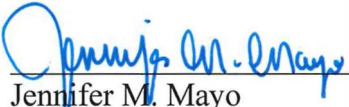
8. Accordingly, it is found that at the time the complaint was filed in this matter (i.e., April 25, 2025), the respondents had not denied the complainant’s April 21, 2025 request, within the meaning of §1-206(a), G.S.

9. It is concluded, therefore, that at the time of the complaint, the respondents did not violate the FOI Act by failing to respond to the complainant's request, described in paragraph 2, above, as alleged.¹

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 April 22, 2026.



Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

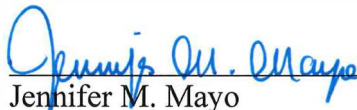
¹ The Commission notes that nothing herein precludes the complainant from requesting the same records from the respondents and, if he is dissatisfied with the response thereto, filing another complaint with the Commission in a manner consistent with §1-206, G.S.

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:

RALPH NEUNTEUFEL, 15 Hayes Street, Easton, CT 06612

CHAIR, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, TOWN OF EASTON; PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, TOWN OF EASTON; AND TOWN OF EASTON, 225 Center Road, Easton, CT 06612


Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission