

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Ryan Salvas and Alycia Salvas,

Complainants

against

Docket # FIC 2025-0124

Heather Somers, Senator, State of
Connecticut, General Assembly, State
Senate; and State of Connecticut, General
Assembly, State Senate,

Respondents

January 28, 2026

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on August 26, 2025, at which time the complainants and the respondents appeared, stipulated to certain facts, and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.¹ The matter was continued to November 26, 2025, at which time the respondents appeared, but the complainants failed to appear.²

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.

¹ The complaint in this matter was filed by both Ryan and Alycia Salvas. However, this matter was initially docketed as filed solely by Ryan Salvas. Accordingly, the hearing officer has corrected the designation of complainant, and the case caption has been amended to reflect such change.

² The hearing officer notes that an Order to Show Cause was issued by the Commission on April 24, 2025, scheduling this matter for a hearing on June 10, 2025. On the morning of June 10, 2025, the complainants sought a postponement, stating that “[d]ue to unforeseen circumstances,” they were unable to attend the hearing. The hearing officer granted the complainants’ postponement request, and the matter was rescheduled to August 12, 2025. However, due to the unavailability of the respondents, the hearing was rescheduled to August 26, 2025.

On September 2, 2025, the Commission notified the parties that a continued hearing would take place on October 1, 2025. However, on the morning of October 1, 2025, the complainants requested that the matter be continued, citing “unforeseen circumstances” and requesting additional time to “meaningfully review and respond to the agency’s communications regarding [the] FOIA request.” The hearing officer granted the complainants’ request. On October 20, 2025, the parties were notified that the continued hearing would convene on November 26, 2025.

On the morning of the November 26, 2025, hearing in this matter, the complainants filed an additional request for a continuance, stating that Ms. Salvas was ill and unable to attend the hearing. No information was provided regarding why Mr. Salvas was unable to attend the hearing. The hearing officer necessarily denied the request, explaining that the matter had been pending with the Commission for nine months, and that the Commission was required, pursuant to §1-206(b)(1), G.S., to issue a final decision within one year of the date that the complaint was filed.

2. It is found that by email dated February 10, 2025, the complainants requested that respondent Somers provide them with copies of “any and all records, documents, communications, and materials that pertain to Senator Heather Somers in connection with the following topics and individuals”:

- (a) Alycia Salvas;
- (b) Ryan Salvas;
- (c) 237 Newport Rd (Sterling);
- (d) 0 Newport Rd (Sterling);
- (e) Buck Hill Rd (Canterbury);
- (f) Feral and/or roaming swine/pigs;
- (g) USDA (United States Department of Agriculture);
- (h) FSA (Farm Service Agency);
- (i) Connecticut Department of Agriculture;
- (j) Bryan Hulburt;
- (k) DEEP/Katie Dykes;
- (l) Russell Cote;
- (m) Ann Dauphinais;
- (n) Doug Dubitsky; and
- (o) Victoria Robinson-Lewis.

It is found that the request specifically included emails, text messages, and phone records of respondent Somers and/or her staff.

3. It is found that on February 11, 2025, the respondents acknowledged receipt of the complainants’ request.

4. By complaint filed February 25, 2025, the complainants appealed to the Commission, alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information (“FOI”) Act by denying their request for the records described in paragraph 2, above.

5. 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 section 1-218, whether such data or information be handwritten, typed, tape-recorded, videotaped, printed, photostated, photographed or recorded by any other method.

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

[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.

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

8. It is concluded that the records described in paragraph 2, above, are public records within the meaning of §§1-200(5) and 1-210(a), G.S.

9. It is found that, on or about March 2025, the complainants and the respondents discussed the request described in paragraph 2, above, and the complainants agreed to narrow such request at that time.

10. It is found that on or about April 2, 2025, the respondents provided the complainants with a link to records responsive to the request.

11. It is found that on or about August 22, 2025, following further discussion with the complainants, the respondents provided the complainants with additional records responsive to the request.

12. At the August 26, 2025, hearing in this matter, the complainants contended that the respondents did not provide them with copies of all responsive records. Although the respondents disputed the complainants’ contention, they agreed to conduct an additional search for responsive records.

13. At the request of the parties, the hearing was continued to afford the parties additional time to discuss the request and the records that the complainants contended had not been provided, and for the respondents to conduct additional searches for responsive records.

14. It is found that by emails dated August 28, 2025, September 10, 2025, September 16, 2025, and September 24, 2025, the respondents contacted the complainants and requested an opportunity to discuss the matters described in paragraph 13, above. It is found, however, that the complainants did not respond to the respondents’ repeated requests. It is found, therefore, that between the August 26, 2025, and November 26, 2025, hearings in this matter, the parties did not engage in any meaningful discussion of the request and the records the complainants believed had not been provided.

15. Notwithstanding, the respondents undertook an additional search for records responsive to the request, which included a search of respondent Somers’ emails and physical files.³ It is found that on or about September 16, 2025, the respondents provided the

³ The hearing officer also notes that at the August 26, 2025, hearing in this matter, the complainants notified the respondents that the link described in paragraph 10, above, had expired, and they could no longer access such records. Consequently, on or about September 3, 2025, the respondents provided the complainants with a new link to the records previously provided.

complainants with a copy of all of the additional responsive records that were located.⁴

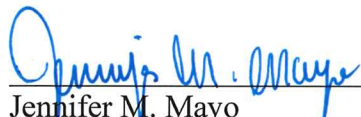
16. Based on the facts and circumstances of this case, it is concluded that the respondents did not deny the complainants' request for the records described in paragraph 2, above.

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

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

1. The complaint is hereby dismissed.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of January 28, 2026.



Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

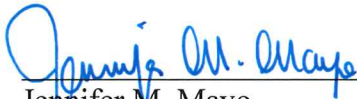
⁴ The hearing officer notes that in their September 16, 2025, communication, the respondents notified the complainants that there was one email that they were withholding from the complainant in reliance on the Commission's Declaratory Ruling No. 90. The respondents also explained to the complainants that they did not believe that such email was responsive because it pertained to an issue unrelated to the matters that are the subject of the complainant's request. The complainants did not respond to the respondents' email. Based on the foregoing, the hearing officer determined that consideration of whether such record is exempt from disclosure is not necessary.

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:

RYAN SALVAS AND ALYCIA SALVAS, 146 Buck Hill Road, Canterbury, CT 06331

HEATHER SOMERS, SENATOR, STATE OF CONNECTICUT, GENERAL ASSEMBLY, STATE SENATE; AND STATE OF CONNECTICUT, GENERAL ASSEMBLY, STATE SENATE c/o Attorney Michael J. Cicchetti, General Counsel, State Republican Office, Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Room 3400, Hartford, CT 06106



Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission