

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Todd Steigman,

Complainants

against

Docket #FIC 2018-0178

Chief, Police Department, City of  
Hartford; Police Department, City of  
Hartford; and City of Hartford,

Respondents

November 14, 2018

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on July 30, 2018, 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. It is found that the respondents are public agencies within the meaning of §1-200(1), G.S.
2. It is found that, on March 12, 2018, the complainant requested ten categories of records.
3. It is found that, on March 19, 2018, the respondents acknowledged the complainant's request, and informed him that "all requests are processed in the order that they are received, currently there are fifty-six (56) requests ahead of yours."
4. By letter filed April 13, 2018, the complainant appealed to this Commission, alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information ("FOI") Act by failing to provide copies of the requested records.
5. Section 1-200(5), G.S., provides:

Public 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, ...whether such data or information be handwritten, typed, tape-recorded, printed, photostated, photographed or recorded by any other method.

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

Except 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 (1) inspect such records promptly during regular office or business hours, ... or (3) receive a copy of such records in accordance with section 1-212.

7. Section 1-212(a), G.S., provides in relevant part: "Any person applying in writing shall receive, promptly upon request, a plain, facsimile, electronic or certified copy of any public record.

8. It is found that the records requested by the complainant are public records within the meaning of §§1-200(5), 1-210(a), and 1-212(a), G.S.

9. It is found that by the time of the hearing in this matter, there were 24 requests ahead of the complainants.

10. It is found that until recently the respondents assigned a single employee to comply with requests for records, both pursuant to the FOI Act and in the course of civil litigation. It is found that another employee was recently assigned, but that the respondents are not certain that the respondents will continue to assign two employees to fulfill requests for records.

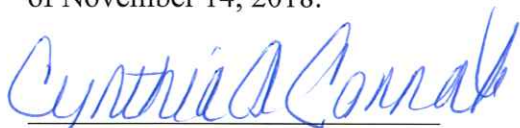
11. It is found that the respondents failed to provide any of the requested records to the complainant, as he alleged. It is concluded that the respondents violated §§1-210(a) and 1-212(a), G.S.

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

1. Within 60 days of the date of the final decision in this matter, the respondents shall provide to the complainant records they maintain that are responsive to the records he requested.

2. Henceforth, the respondents shall strictly comply with §§1-210(a) and 1-212(a), G.S.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of November 14, 2018.



Cynthia A. Cannata  
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:

**TODD STEIGMAN**, Madsen, Prestley & Parenteau, LLC, 402 Asylum Street, Hartford, CT 06103

**CHIEF, POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF HARTFORD; POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF HARTFORD; AND CITY OF HARTFORD**, c/o Attorney Cynthia Lauture, Office of the Corporation Counsel, 550 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103



Cynthia A. Cannata  
Acting Clerk of the Commission