

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In The Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Ethan Book,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2018-0560

Christopher Rosario, Member,  
Connecticut General Assembly; and  
Connecticut General Assembly,

Respondents

August 14, 2019

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on April 4, 2019, 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, by letter dated September 18, 2018, the complainant requested that State Representative Christopher Rosario provide him with “verifiable copies of paid bills of your lodging and meals for your recent week-end trip to the MGM casino in Springfield, Massachusetts.”
3. By letter dated September 12, 2018 and filed September 14, 2018, the complainant appealed to the Commission, alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information Act (“FOI Act”) by failing to provide him with copies of the records described in paragraph 2, above.

4. 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, 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, printed, photostated, photographed or recorded by any

other method.

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

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, (2) copy such records in accordance with subsection (g) of section 1-212, or (3) receive a copy of such records in accordance with section 1-212.

6. 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.”

7. It is found that, to the extent that the respondents maintain or keep on file the records described in paragraph 2, above, such records are public records within the meaning of §§1-200(5), 1-210(a), and 1-212(a), G.S.

8. It is found that State Representative Rosario did not learn of the instant request for records until the Commission issued the March 5, 2019 Notice of Hearing and Order to Show Cause.

9. It is undisputed that, as of September 18, 2018—the date of the request in this case—State Representative Rosario did not maintain any records responsive to the request.

10. It is found that, State Representative Rosario received the responsive records from the casino under cover letter dated February 28, 2019, and promptly provided copies of such records to the complainant, free of charge.


11. It is found that the respondents have no additional responsive public records to provide the complainant.

12. Based on the above-cited facts, it is concluded that the respondents did not violate the FOI Act, 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 hereby dismissed.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of August 14, 2019.

  
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:

**ETHAN BOOK**, 144 Coleman Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604

**CHRISTOPHER ROSARIO, MEMBER, CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**, c/o Assistant Attorney General Philip Miller, Office of the Attorney General, 55 Elm Street, PO Box 120, Hartford, CT 06019 and Assistant Attorney General Alma Rose Nunley, Office of the Attorney General, 55 Elm Street, PO Box 120, Hartford, CT 06019



Cynthia A. Cannata  
Acting Clerk of the Commission