



May 2, 2019

By email to: [dwsd-publicaffairs@detroitmi.gov](mailto:dwsd-publicaffairs@detroitmi.gov)

FOIA coordinator  
Detroit Water and Sewerage Department  
Water Board Building  
735 Randolph  
Detroit, MI 48226

Re: FOIA Request – Drinking Water Distribution System Materials Evaluation

Dear FOIA Coordinator:

In accordance with the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.213 et seq., on behalf of the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center ("Center"), I write to request electronic copies, or review of physical versions, of the records described below. If the records do not exist in electronic format, I wish to schedule a time to review the hard copy versions. If the records exist in electronic format, I would like them to be provided by email, or on a CD or DVD, or through a website.

Please contact me with a cost estimate before undertaking any action that would cause the Center to incur any cost before it expressly consents to such cost. No matter the format of the records, the Center does not authorize DWSD to take any action that would cause the Center to incur costs related to this request without the Center's express written authorization.

### **Records Requested**

Request No. 1: Any and all documents compiled or prepared by DWSD in order to complete a materials evaluation of the distribution system to identify a pool of targeted sampling sites pursuant to Mich. Admin. Code R. 325.10710a(1)(a).

Request No. 2: Any other compilation of documents prepared by DWSD pursuant to Mich. Admin. Code R. 325.10710a(1)(b), including the following: (i) all plumbing codes, permits, and records in the files of the building department or departments that indicate the plumbing materials installed within publicly and privately owned structures connected to the distribution system; (ii) all inspections and records of the distribution system that indicate the material composition of the service connections connecting a structure to the distribution system; (iii) all existing water quality information that indicates locations which may be particularly susceptible to high lead concentrations.

#### **Further Instructions**

##### *Exempt Records*

Should you decide to invoke a FOIA exemption as the basis for withholding any record responsive to this request, please include in your full or partial denial letter sufficient information for the Center to appeal the denial pursuant to MCL 15.235(5)(a). To comply with legal requirements, the following information must be included:

1. Basic factual material about each withheld item, including the originator, date, length, general subject matter, and location of each item; and
2. Explanations and justifications for denial, including the identification of the category within the governing statutory provision under which the document (or portion thereof) was withheld and a full explanation of how each exemption fits the withheld material.

If you determine that portions of a record requested are exempt from disclosure, please redact the exempt portions and provide the remainder of the record.

##### *Fee Waiver Request*

The Center requests that you waive all fees in connection with this request as provided by FOIA, which states in relevant part:

A search for a public record may be conducted or copies of public records may be furnished without charge or at a reduced charge if the public body determines that a waiver or reduction of the fee is in the public interest because searching for or furnishing copies of the public record can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public.

MCL 15.234(2). The Center's requests can be considered as primarily benefitting the general public for several reasons. First, the Center will make some of the records publicly available. Second, the records requested concern the operations or activities of the government. Third, the Center is a non-profit organization registered as a charitable organization in Michigan, with no commercial interest in obtaining the requested information.

*Willingness to Pay Fees Under Protest*

While a fee waiver should be granted for the reasons set forth above, the Center is seeking these records regardless of DWSD's ultimate decision on the fee waiver request. The Center is willing to pay fees in keeping with the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, if necessary and under protest, to enable the timely delivery of the records.

Fees must be limited to actual costs of labor and copying, and the means for copying must be the most economically available. MCL 15.234(1) and (3). Furthermore, fees may only be assessed based on established procedures and guidelines. MCL 15.234(4). We therefore request that you identify the procedures and guidelines under which it assesses fees, provide an itemized list of fees charged and the justification for them in order to establish compliance with the statutory requirements.

In addition, any payment of fees does not constitute waiver of the Center's right to seek administrative or judicial review of any denial of its fee waiver request. As stated

DWSD FOIA Coordinator

May 2, 2019

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above, the Center does not authorize DWSD to undertake any activity related to this request that would cause the Center to incur costs without advance express written authorization.

*Record Delivery*

For electronic records, please either send them by email to [nicholas.leonard@glelc.org](mailto:nicholas.leonard@glelc.org), or else the Center can provide a USB drive or other media storage device along with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The Center prefers electronic records. If you choose to provide paper records, please mail them to:

Nicholas Leonard  
Great Lakes Environmental Law Center  
4444 2nd Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201

Again, no matter the method of delivery, please contact me with a cost estimate *before* undertaking any action that would cause the Center to incur any cost before it expressly consents to such cost

\* \* \*

If you find that this request is unclear in any way please do not hesitate to call me so that I may clarify the request, or otherwise expedite and simplify your efforts to comply.

Sincerely,

/s/:Nicholas Leonard

Nicholas Leonard  
Executive Director  
Great Lakes Environmental Law Center  
4444 2nd Avenue

DWSD FOIA Coordinator

May 2, 2019

Page 5 of 5

Detroit, MI 48201

[nicholas.leonard@glelc.org](mailto:nicholas.leonard@glelc.org)

313-782-3372

Raj Patel <[rpatel@majorcementco.com](mailto:rpatel@majorcementco.com)>  
Fri 5/10/2019 9:20 AM

- Matthew Knott;
- Choi Portis;
- Michael Scappaticci <[michael@majorcementco.com](mailto:michael@majorcementco.com)>;
- Fadi Moussa <[fmoussa@majorcementco.com](mailto:fmoussa@majorcementco.com)>

□

Good morning,

Major Cement Co is requesting to review top 3 lowest bidders for the following project for review and copying under FOIA

- RFB DWS-907 – Water & Sewer Improvements for North Rosedale Park
- RFB DWS-908 – Water Improvements for Cornerstone Village

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns

Thank You,

Raj Patel  
Major Cement Co.  
(313)477-9179 – Cell  
[rpatel@majorcementco.com](mailto:rpatel@majorcementco.com)



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nathaniel Zorach** <[nathaniel.zorach@gmail.com](mailto:nathaniel.zorach@gmail.com)>

Date: Tue, May 7, 2019 at 11:07 AM

Subject: FOIA request

To: <[dwsd-publicaffairs@detroitmi.gov](mailto:dwsd-publicaffairs@detroitmi.gov)>

Hello,

I would like to make a FOIA request for a data file or data files containing information about water bill receipts for parcels in the city of Detroit. As I am not sure what formats these data exist in, I will provide some clarification on what I am looking for:

I am specifically looking for information about 1) assessed drainage charges, 2) according receipts for the bills associated with those properties, on 3) commercial and industrial (all nonresidential) property within the city of Detroit. #2 is the operative thing I am looking for. Given that the city of Detroit offers public access to parcel data and associated tax information through its open data portal, I assume that the Water Department will also have access to similar information through which parcel numbers and water bills can easily be associated.

Please let me know if there are additional steps that will be required to make this request.

Thank you,

Nat

--

nat m. zorach | [handbuiltcity](#)

 [LinkedIn](#) | @nzorach

**From:** Jay Lyons [<mailto:jaylyons326@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 7:51 PM

**To:** MyDWSD <[mydwsd@detroitmi.gov](mailto:mydwsd@detroitmi.gov)>

**Subject:** In accordance to the Freedom of Information Act for Michigan state

Hello, I hope you are doing well. In accordance to the Freedom of Information Act for Michigan to obtain records from Wayne county public governmental bodies, I am requesting a list of all single family addresses whose water is disconnected/ water shut off and have been disconnected for at least 2 months or more consecutively. Water disconnected/shut off beginning on february 1st, 2019 to today's current date. I am not looking for one specific or single address but all of the addresses that have been shut off/ disconnected for at least 2 months consecutively located in wayne , Michigan.

Please include any and all available information for the most recent account holder as well. Please let me know who I can reach out to in regards to this matter. Thank you for your time and help, I truly appreciate it.

Respectfully, Jay Lyons



[REDACTED]

MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 73444  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516  
73444-01118708@requests.muckrock.com

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Detroit Water and Sewerage Department  
FOIA Office  
735 Randolph Street  
Detroit, MI 48226

May 17, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

Materials related to agreements and proposals, solicited and unsolicited, for the ownership, operation and/or management responsibilities of the water system, the sewer system, a water treatment plant, and/or wastewater treatment (or any portions thereof), including (but not limited to) those materials referencing the entities listed below.

Please include as responsive the following records:

1. Agreements: Any contracts, services agreements, memorandums of understanding, or like agreements related to the ownership, operation and/or management responsibilities of the water system, the sewer system, a water treatment plant, and/or wastewater treatment (or any portions thereof);
2. Procurement: Any request for qualifications, request for proposals, or other bids (both solicited and unsolicited) for the ownership, operation and/or management of the water system, the sewer system, a water treatment plant, or a wastewater treatment; and
3. Communications: For the period between January 1, 2018 and May 1, 2019, any communication (including postal mail, emails, memoranda, meeting agenda or minutes, presentations, and text messages) between representatives of each utility (including the directors of the utility, general managers, the purchasing director, and any other applicable utility representatives) and representatives from water companies or other private water system operators, including:
  - a. Suez (domain: suez-na.com), including "Jim.Perron@suez-na.com"
  - b. Veolia
  - c. American Water or a state affiliate, subsidiary, or representative
  - d. Aqua America or a state affiliate, subsidiary, or representative

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 73444  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516  
73444-01118708@requests.muckrock.com

---

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 5 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Beryl Lipton

Filed via MuckRock.com  
E-mail (Preferred): 73444-01118708@requests.muckrock.com

For mailed responses, please address (see note):

MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 73444  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

PLEASE NOTE: This request was filed by a MuckRock staff reporter. Also note that improperly addressed (i.e., with the requester's name rather than "MuckRock News" and the department number) requests might be returned as undeliverable.



May 21, 2019

By email to: FOIA@detroitmi.gov

City of Detroit FOIA coordinator  
Coleman A. Young Municipal Building  
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 500  
Detroit, MI 48226

Re: FOIA Request – Detroit Water and Sewerage Department water bill and water termination policies

Dear City of Detroit FOIA Coordinator:

In accordance with the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.213 et seq., on behalf of the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center ("Center"), I write to request electronic copies, or review of physical versions, of the records described below. If the records do not exist in electronic format, I wish to schedule a time to review the hard copy versions. If the records exist in electronic format, I would like them to be provided by email, or on a CD or DVD, or through a website.

Please contact me with a cost estimate before undertaking any action that would cause the Center to incur any cost before it expressly consents to such cost. No matter the format of the records, the Center does not authorize any action that would cause the Public Body to whom this FOIA request was sent incur costs related to this request without the Center's express written authorization.

### **Records Requested**

Request No. 1: Any document(s) describing Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's ("DWSD") official policies for the process of disputing a customer(s) water, sewerage or drainage bill.

FOIA Coordinator

May 21, 2019

Page 2 of 4

Request No. 2: Any document(s) describing DWSD's official policies for the process of disputing termination of a customer's water, sewerage or drainage service.

Request No. 3: Any document(s) describing DWSD's official policies for the process of allowing third-party advocates to intervene on behalf of a customer(s) in a dispute regarding water, sewerage or drainage bills or termination of service.

### **Further Instructions**

#### *Exempt Records*

Should you decide to invoke a FOIA exemption as the basis for withholding any record responsive to this request, please include in your full or partial denial letter sufficient information for the Center to appeal the denial pursuant to MCL 15.235(5)(a). To comply with legal requirements, the following information must be included:

1. Basic factual material about each withheld item, including the originator, date, length, general subject matter, and location of each item; and
2. Explanations and justifications for denial, including the identification of the category within the governing statutory provision under which the document (or portion thereof) was withheld and a full explanation of how each exemption fits the withheld material.

If you determine that portions of a record requested are exempt from disclosure, please redact the exempt portions and provide the remainder of the record.

#### *Fee Waiver Request*

The Center requests that you waive all fees in connection with this request as provided by FOIA, which states in relevant part:

A search for a public record may be conducted or copies of public records may be furnished without charge or at a



reduced charge if the public body determines that a waiver or reduction of the fee is in the public interest because searching for or furnishing copies of the public record can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public. MCL 15.234(2).

The Center's requests can be considered as primarily benefitting the general public for several reasons. First, the Center will make some of the records publicly available. Second, the records requested concern the operations or activities of the government. Third, the Center is a non-profit organization registered as a charitable organization in Michigan, with no commercial interest in obtaining the requested information.

*Willingness to Pay Fees Under Protest*

While a fee waiver should be granted for the reasons set forth above, the Center is seeking these records regardless of the ultimate decision regarding the fee waiver request. The Center is willing to pay fees in keeping with the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, if necessary and under protest, to enable the timely delivery of the records.

Fees must be limited to actual costs of labor and copying, and the means for copying must be the most economically available. MCL 15.234(1) and (3). Furthermore, fees may only be assessed based on established procedures and guidelines. MCL 15.234(4). We therefore request that you identify the procedures and guidelines under which it assesses fees, provide an itemized list of fees charged and the justification for them in order to establish compliance with the statutory requirements.

In addition, any payment of fees does not constitute waiver of the Center's right to seek administrative or judicial review of any denial of its fee waiver request. As stated above, the Center does not authorize the Public Body to whom this FOIA request was sent to undertake any activity related to this request that would cause the Center to incur costs without advance express written authorization.

*Record Delivery*

FOIA Coordinator

May 21, 2019

Page 4 of 4

The Center prefers electronic records. For email any electronic records to:

andrew.kral@glelc.org

If you choose to provide paper records, please mail them to:

Andrew Kral  
Great Lakes Environmental Law Center  
4444 2nd Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201

Again, no matter the method of delivery, please contact me with a cost estimate *before* undertaking any action that would cause the Center to incur any cost before it expressly consents to such cost

\* \* \*

If you find that this request is unclear in any way please do not hesitate to call me so that I may clarify the request, or otherwise expedite and simplify your efforts to comply.

Sincerely,

/s/:Andrew Kral

Andrew Kral  
Summer Legal Intern  
Great Lakes Environmental Law Center  
4444 2nd Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201  
313-782-3372



LAW OFFICES OF  
**COHEN, LERNER & RABINOVITZ, P.C.**

200 BEACON CENTRE  
26862 WOODWARD AVENUE  
ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN 48067-0959  
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CANDACE V. YONO  
ERIC J. GOULD

ANN E. ERICKSON GAULT  
OF COUNSEL

\*Also admitted in Illinois

May 29, 2019

Detroit Water & Sewer Department  
Attn: FOIA Coordinator  
735 Randolph St.  
Detroit, MI 48226

**RE: 2432 W. Boston Blvd., Detroit, MI  
Acct. No.150-2191.305**

Dear Sir/Madam:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.235, this office hereby requests a copy of the usage history graph, including, but not limited to, all meter readings, any policy regarding shutoffs, all internal records regarding Acct. No. 150-2191.305 (2432 W. Boston Blvd.), all documents regarding water consumption, all past invoices and the names of all individuals who serviced the Boston Blvd. property during the billing period from January 2014 to the present.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you should have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (248) 691-2200.

Very truly yours,

COHEN, LERNER & RABINOVITZ, PC



Candace V. Yono

CVY:ljw

P:\CLIENTS\IMNL Investors\FOIA Ltr to DWSD.wpd



# DEMOREST LAW FIRM

 PRIMERUS.com  
MEMBER FIRM

PHONE: 248.723.5500  
FAX: 248.723.5588  
WEB: WWW.DEMOLAW.COM

May 31, 2019

FOIA COORDINATOR  
Detroit Water and Sewerage Department  
Water Board Building  
735 Randolph  
Detroit, MI 48226  
[Dwsd-publicaffairs@detroitmi.gov](mailto:Dwsd-publicaffairs@detroitmi.gov)

**Re: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST**

Dear Sir or Madam,

Pursuant to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.231, et seq., I hereby request a copy of all documents and correspondence that was sent or received by the water department concerning 3925 Tillman St, Detroit, MI 48208 (the "Property") from September 2016 through the present date. This request includes any and all invoices for fees regarding or related to water usage and/or drainage at the Property and any documents regarding the calculation of the amount of the fees in the invoices.

I am willing to pay reasonable search and copy fees for these materials. If the documents I have requested are not disclosable in their entirety, I request that you release all nonexempt portions of the documents that may be segregated and all parts of the documents that can be rendered disclosable by redaction.

If you determine that any of the requested documents fall within a statutory exemption, I request that you exercise your discretion to disclose them. As to any portion of the documents that you withhold, please state with specificity the legal and factual basis for withholding such portion.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. Lastly, prior to complying with this request, please provide through email correspondence or by letter, a summary of estimated expenses, to comply with this request.

Sincerely,

**DEMOREST LAW FIRM, PLLC**

  
Lisa Okasinski

[lisa@demolaw.com](mailto:lisa@demolaw.com)

The Tillman Project, LLC/DWSD/Correspondence/2019 05 31 sl FOIA.docx

ROYAL OAK OFFICE (MAIN) 322 W LINCOLN AVE STE 300 ROYAL OAK MI 48067  
NORTHERN MICHIGAN OFFICE 140 PALUSTER ST CADILLAC MI 49601

EXPERT RESULTS WITH OUTSTANDING EFFICIENCY

# CITY OF DETROIT

## Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request for NON-POLICE RECORDS

Please note that failure to complete certain fields on this form may result in a denial of your request.

1. Today's date: June 4, 2019
2. Individual making this request: Sessi Kuwabara Blanchard
3. Street Address: 447 Broadway
4. City/State/Zip: New York City, NY 10013
5. Telephone number: [REDACTED] Fax number: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Your client or insured (optional ): \_\_\_\_\_
7. Description of the record: annual number of water shut downs by city district,  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Date and time or time period, if applicable: for years 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019, as of June.
9. Identify City department or agency: Water and Sewerage Department
10. Any other information that will assist the department/agency in locating the requested record:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: 

- NOTE:**
- 1) Failure to complete this form may result in a denial of your request.
  - 2) For Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department record, please identify the address.
  - 3) For contract or RFP/RFQ, please identify contract number or RFP/RFQ number and a description.
  - 4) If the requested record pertains to an individual other than the requestor, a notarized authorization to release the record may be required from the person who is the subject of the request.
  - 5) If the request is too broad, depending on the description of your request, we may deny your request; or request that you submit a deposit payment, prior to searching for the requested record.
  - 6) Medical record requests (e.g., EMS run sheets or billings) must comply with HIPAA and the Michigan Medical Records Access Act.

**HAND-DELIVER OR MAIL THIS REQUEST TO:**

City of Detroit FOIA Coordinator  
City of Detroit Law Department  
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 500  
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3437



June 5, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am requesting records of properties that have voluntarily or otherwise had water shut-off in the past 6 months to a year.

I'm requesting this information per the Freedom of Information Act Request. (FOIA)

my name is Debra Adams  
my business is Refused Realty  
my address is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
my phone # is [REDACTED]

my email address is [REDACTED]

Thank you  
Sincerely  
Debra Adams