



Water Board Building
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Detroit, MI 48226

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July 25, 2019

SENT VIA E-MAIL: sarahfeldman@gmail.com

Sarah Feldman
DWSD Comment Card

**RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST
File No: 19-072**

Dear Ms. Feldman,

Pursuant to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.231, *et seq*, the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department ("DWSD") grants your request as follows:

1. What steps are being taken to align communication between offices and officials during shut offs and access to water.

RESPONSE TO REQUEST 1: Please see the attached PDF which is the official DWSD policy explaining the process of water shut offs.

Please be advised that, pursuant to MCL 15.235(5), the City is required to advise you that under MCL 15.240, if a public body makes a final determination to deny all or part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act, the requesting person has the right to do either of the following:

- (1) Submit to the head of the public body a written appeal that specifically states the word "appeal" and identifies the reason or reasons for reversal of the disclosure denial or;
- (2) Seek judicial review of the denial under MCL 15.240.

If you seek judicial review under MCL 15.240 and the court determines that the public records are not exempt from disclosure, the court shall order the City to cease withholding or to produce the public record withheld. The circuit court for the jurisdiction in which the complainant resides or has his or her principal place of business, or the circuit court in which the public records are located are the proper venue to bring the action. The court shall consider the case *de novo* and the burden is on the public body to sustain its denial.

If a person asserting the right to obtain the public record prevails in the action, the court shall award reasonable attorney fees, costs, and disbursements, or an appropriate portion. If the court determines that the public body has arbitrarily and capriciously violated the Freedom of Information Act, the court shall, in addition to any actual or compensatory damages, award punitive damages in the amount of \$1,000 to the person seeking the public records.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me in writing or via email at matthew.knott@detroitmi.gov.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Knott

Matthew R. Knott
FOIA Coordinator