

Patricia Robinson

From: Pratt, Sarah <SPratt@atg.state.il.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:46 PM
To: Patricia Robinson
Subject: RE: FOIA Requests During COVID-19

Good afternoon,

The Attorney General's OMA/FOIA guidance issued April 9, 2020, does provide, in part, that "[p]ublic bodies that are unable to meet statutory deadlines due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 may determine it is appropriate to set reasonable time periods beyond the statutory deadlines within which to respond to FOIA requests during this time of crisis." The guidance also encourages members of the public and media to work with public bodies to agree on reasonable and appropriate response times in light of the present circumstances. Please let me know if you have further questions.

Sarah L. Pratt
Public Access Counselor
500 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
(217) 557-0548

From: Public Access
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Public Access <PAccess@atg.state.il.us>
Subject: FW: FOIA Requests During COVID-19

INQ 62582 – INITIAL DOCS

From: FOIAofficer
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 11:19 AM
To: Public Access <PAccess@atg.state.il.us>
Subject: FW: FOIA Requests During COVID-19

This looks like a PAC question. Thanks.

From: Patricia Robinson [<mailto:probinson@c-uphd.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 10:36 AM
To: FOIAofficer <F@atg.state.il.us>
Subject: FOIA Requests During COVID-19

Good Morning:

I am the Freedom of Information Officer for the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District and due to the COVID-19 outbreak to which we are first responders we are as I'm sure you are as well extremely busy. During the past couple of weeks we have received an increasing amount of FOIA requests and a series of requests specifically from a group [REDACTED]. This group is actively posting to an online website that we, along with all other public bodies in the county, are violating public records laws. We have complied with all of the requests so far with 5-

day extensions and for one request last week we filed an additional 5-day extension. I understand the rules in that only one 5 day extension is allowed and then the request must be denied; however, we did not want to deny this request which we fear would have created more animosity on the part of the requestor.

I read in the recent COVID-19 guidance from the Attorney General's Office, pg. 7, 3rd paragraph that we can during this time "determine it is appropriate to set reasonable time periods beyond the statutory deadlines within which to respond to FOIA requests during this time of crisis".

Could I please request a response email letting us know that requesting the additional 5-day extension is within the guidance as described in the above paragraph?

Thank you for your time and I hope you are staying well.

Patricia K. Robinson, IPMA-CP
Director of Human Resources



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