



CPRB Hearing This Friday

1 message

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Dear Urbana CPRB et al,

As you know, Ricardo Diaz and I have discussed holding an appeals hearing this Friday.

This year, City Attorney James Simon, and FOIA Officer Curt Borman have introduced numerous illegal measures regarding FOIA, which has made it nearly impossible to retrieve public records.

On July 17, I attempted to retrieve records related to my own police complaints via FOIA. The City violated FOIA (documented in my article here: <https://checkcu.org/urbana-dinged-again-by-illinois-attorney-general-on-foia-postage-fees/>) and more than 3 months later, I still do not have any of the records.

Carol Mitten sent limited records related to my appeals on October 15th, but I am still waiting on fulfillment of my FOIA request.

I have brought the issue of Urbana FOIA violations to the attention of the CPRB numerous times over the past 12 months. Multiple CPRB Chairs and board members (including Mr. Diaz), along with Chief Bryant Seraphin, have indicated that FOIA is not an issue related to the CPRB. Unfortunately, the actions taken by the City in regards to FOIA do severely limit my ability to take part in my own appeals hearings.

With the time and resources I have had to invest into the City's recent Open Meetings Act violations, I have had little time to review the records provided by Mitten. I also believe that my FOIA documents will further aid in the appeals hearing.

Furthermore, I find that the hearing this Friday cannot be held in accordance with the CPRB Ordinance because all interested parties have not been notified of the hearing by certified mail. I would normally be prepared to waive this requirement, but Bryant Seraphin and Carol Mitten, without protest from the members of the CPRB, have exercised the very strictest (and often creatively so) interpretations of the CPRB Ordinance, often denying access at any and every available opportunity. I cannot imagine that anyone sees fit to proceed this Friday, against the terms of the CPRB Ordinance, given the general posture and past practices of the City in regards to police complaints.

Therefore, I suggest we schedule a new time so that the CPRB Ordinance can be properly complied with, and I can have (hopefully) received my FOIA records.

I am including the members of the Urbana City Council in this email so that they may also receive my explanation directly. It is my experience that city staff will generally attempt to deceive the Council and blame the public for what is squarely the fault of the City. I have followed both the FOIA law and the CPRB Ordinance with impeccable attention to detail, and I have made every effort to acquire the needed materials and perform my own due diligence. The failings listed here are not due to any fault of my own, and I would like the members of the Council to know that.

Regards,
Christopher Hansen