

ROSEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

I. PURPOSE.

The Roseville Public Library (“Library”) adopts the public policy set forth in the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, 1976 PA 442 (“FOIA”), that all persons, except those persons incarcerated in state, county or federal correctional facilities, are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of those who represent them as public officials and public employees, consistent with the FOIA. Access to information is important so that people may fully participate in the democratic process. These Procedures and Guidelines are enacted in compliance with the requirements set forth in Section 4(4) of the FOIA.

II. FOIA COORDINATOR.

The Library Director shall be the FOIA Coordinator. The FOIA Coordinator will respond to requests in accordance with the FOIA. An employee of the Library who receives a request for a public record must promptly forward that request to the FOIA Coordinator. The FOIA Coordinator is responsible for accepting, processing and approving a denial of a request and signing the written notice of denial. The FOIA Coordinator may designate another individual to act on his or her behalf in accepting and processing requests for the Library’s public records, and in approving a denial.

III. REQUEST REQUIRED.

A. *Requestor; Public Record.* An individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, firm, organization, association, governmental entity, or other legal entity, except those persons incarcerated in state, county or federal correctional facilities, may request public records from the Library. “Public Record” has the meaning as defined in Section 2(e) of the FOIA.

B. *Verbal Requests.* The Library may, but is not required to, provide public records in response to a verbal request, unless such verbal request is for information that the Library believes is available on its website. In such case, an employee, where practicable and to the best of his or her knowledge, shall inform the requestor about the pertinent website where the information is available.

C. *Written Requests.* Except as provided in Section III.B above, a person desiring to inspect, copy or receive a copy of a public record shall make a written request for the public record to the Library. A request can be made through a letter, in person, or sent by electronic transmission.

1. Where to Send the Request. Whenever possible, requests for public records should be directed to the following recipients so that the information can reach the FOIA Coordinator:

- a. By mail or in person:

Roseville Public Library
Attn: FOIA Coordinator
29777 Gratiot Avenue
Roseville, MI 48066
(586) 445-5407

- b. By E-Mail: rsvlibraryadmin@roseville-mi.gov

- c. By Fax: (586) 445-5499

2. Sufficient Description. Requests in writing must identify the public record sufficiently to allow the Library to find the requested record. If not, the request may be denied on that basis.

3. Requestor Contact Information Required. A request from a person must include the following (unless the request is from an individual who qualifies as indigent under Section 4(2)(a) of the FOIA):

- a. the requesting person's complete name, address, and contact information, and
- b. if the request is made by a person other than an individual, the complete name, address, and contact information of the person's agent who is an individual.

An address must be written in compliance with United States Postal Service addressing standards. Contact information must include a valid telephone number or electronic mail address.

4. Electronic Transmissions. For requests sent by electronic transmission, the following shall apply:

- a. Electronic Transmissions. A written request made by facsimile, electronic mail, or other electronic transmission is not received by the Library's FOIA coordinator until 1 business day after the electronic transmission is made.
- b. Spam or Junk Mail Folder. If a written request is sent by electronic mail and delivered to the Library's spam or junk mail folder, the request is not received until 1 day after the Library first becomes aware of the written request. The Library shall note in its records both the time a written request is delivered to its spam or junk mail folder and the time the Library first becomes aware of that request. The FOIA Coordinator shall be responsible

for routinely monitoring the spam and junk mail folders in order to determine whether they contain any FOIA requests.

5. Specify Format. The requestor may specify whether he or she would like to inspect, receive paper copies, or receive the public records on nonpaper physical media. The Library is only required to comply with the request for specified nonpaper physical media if it has the technological capability necessary to provide the public records on the requested nonpaper physical media in the particular instance.

6. Subscription. A person has a right to subscribe to future issuances of public records that are created, issued, or disseminated on a regular basis. A subscription shall be valid for up to 6 months, at the request of the subscriber, and shall be renewable.

IV. PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO WRITTEN FOIA REQUESTS.

A. *Response.* Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the person making the request, the Library shall respond to a request within 5 business days after it receives the request by:

1. Granting the request (which would include notifying the requestor that all or a portion of the public records requested are available on the website, if applicable);
2. Issuing a written notice to the requesting person denying the request;
3. Granting the request in part and issuing a written notice to the requesting person denying the request in part (which would include notifying the requestor that all or a portion of the public records requested are available on the website if applicable); or
4. Issuing a notice extending for not more than 10 business days the period during which the Library shall respond to the request.

The Library's written response shall be considered the final determination regarding the FOIA request.

B. *Understanding the Library's Response.* The Library has an obligation to respond as required under the FOIA. If the Library grants a written request in full, the requestor will receive a notice indicating that it has been granted. However, if the request is denied or denied in part, the Library shall provide the following information:

- 1 Pursuant to Section 13 of the FOIA, the Library may exempt certain documents from disclosure. The FOIA Coordinator will review the request to determine if any exemptions apply. The FOIA Coordinator may request assistance

from the Library's Attorney regarding the application of exemptions. If exempt, the Library shall provide an explanation of the basis under this act or other statute for the determination that the public record, or portion of that public record, is exempt from disclosure, if that is the reason for denying all or a portion of the request.

2. A certificate that the public record does not exist under the name given by the requestor or by another name reasonably known to the Library, if that is the reason for denying the request or a portion of the request. The denial letter may indicate that the letter serves as the certificate as required by the FOIA.

3. A description of a public record or information on a public record that is separated or deleted pursuant to Section 14 of the FOIA, if a separation or deletion is made.

4. A full explanation of the requesting person's right to do either of the following:

a. Submit to the Roseville Public Library Commission ("Library Commission") a written appeal that specifically states the word "appeal" and identifies the reason or reasons for reversal of the disclosure denial; or

b. Seek judicial review of the denial under Section 10 of the FOIA.

5. Notice of the right to receive attorneys' fees and damages as provided in Section 10 of the FOIA, MCL 15.240, if, after judicial review, the court determines that the Library has not complied and orders disclosure of all or a portion of a public record.

C. *No Obligation to Create Records.* The FOIA does not require the Library to make a compilation, summary, or report of information. Further, the Library is not required to create a new public record in order to respond to a request.

D. *Documents Available on Website.* If the FOIA Coordinator knows or has reason to know that all or a portion of the requested information is available on its website, the Library shall notify the requestor in its written response. The written response, to the degree practicable in the specific instance, shall include a specific webpage address where the requested information is available.

If all or a portion of the requested records are available on the website and the Library has included the website address in its written response but the requestor wants the public records in a paper format or other nonpaper physical media, the Library shall provide the public records in the specified format. On the detailed itemization, the Library shall separate the requested public records that are available on its website from those that are not available on the website and shall inform the requestor of the additional charge to receive copies of the public records that are available on its website.

V. FEES.

The Library may charge a fee for a public record search, for the necessary copying of a public record for inspection, or for providing a copy of a public record because it has established, made publicly available, and follows these Procedures and Guidelines and the FOIA. The fee shall be limited to actual mailing costs and to the actual incremental cost of duplication or publication including labor; the cost of search, examination and review; and the deletion and separation of exempt information from non-exempt information as set forth more fully in these Procedures and Guidelines. The FOIA Coordinator shall provide a detailed itemization of costs on a standard form, as required under Section 4(4) of the FOIA (“Detailed Itemization”). The total fee shall not exceed the sum of the following components:

A. *Labor Costs:*

1. Searching for, Locating and Examining.

a. The Library may charge for searching for, locating and examining public records in conjunction with receiving and fulfilling a granted written request.

b. The Library shall not charge more than the hourly wage of its lowest-paid employee capable of searching for, locating, and examining the public records in the particular instance regardless of whether that person is available or who actually performs the labor.

c. These labor costs shall be estimated and charged in increments of 15 minutes, with all partial time increments rounded down.

2. Separating and Deleting Exempt from Non-Exempt:

a. For services performed by an employee of the Library, the Library shall not charge more than the hourly wage of its lowest-paid employee capable of separating and deleting exempt information from non-exempt information in the particular instance, regardless of whether that person is available or who actually performs the labor. All references in these Procedures and Guidelines to separating and deleting exempt information from non-exempt information shall refer to the separation and deletion requirements set forth in Section 14 of the FOIA, MCL 15.244.

b. If the Library does not employ a person capable of separating and deleting exempt information from non-exempt information in the particular instance, it may treat necessary contracted labor costs used for the separating and deleting of exempt information from non-exempt

information in the same manner as employee labor costs when calculating charges under this subdivision if all of the following occur:

- 1) The Library's FOIA Coordinator determines on a case-by-case basis that the Library does not employ a person capable of separating and deleting exempt information from non-exempt information.
- 2) The Library clearly notes the name of the contracted person or firm on the Detailed Itemization.
- 3) Total labor costs calculated for contracted labor costs shall not exceed an amount equal to 6 times the state minimum hourly wage rate.

c. These labor costs shall be estimated and charged in increments of 15 minutes, with all partial time increments rounded down.

d. The Library shall not charge for labor directly associated with redaction if it knows or has reason to know that it previously redacted the public record in question and the redacted version is still in the Library's possession.

e. If the Library directly or indirectly administers or maintains an official internet presence, any public records available to the general public on that internet site at the time the request is made are exempt from this labor charge.

3. Duplication or Publication Labor Charges.

a. The Library may charge labor costs for duplication and publication, including making paper copies, making digital copies, or transferring digital public records to be given to the requestor on nonpaper physical media or through the internet or other electronic means as stipulated by the requestor.

b. The Library shall not charge more than the hourly wage of its lowest-paid employee capable of necessary duplication or publication in the particular instance, regardless of whether that person is available or who actually performs the labor.

c. Labor costs shall be estimated and charged in increments of one (1) minute, with all partial time increments rounded down.

4. Fringe Benefit Costs. The Library may also add up to 50% to the applicable labor charge amount to cover or partially cover the cost of fringe benefits if it clearly notes the percentage multiplier used to account for benefits in the Detailed

Itemization. Subject to the 50% limitation, the Library shall not charge more than the actual cost of fringe benefits, and overtime wages shall not be used in calculating the cost of fringe benefits.

If all or a portion of the requested records are available on the website and the Library has included the website address in its written response but the requestor wants the public records in a paper format or other nonpaper physical media, the Library shall provide the public records in the specified format but may use a fringe benefit multiplier greater than the 50% limitation, not to exceed the actual costs of providing the information in the specified format.

5. Overtime Wages. Overtime wages shall not be included in the calculation of labor costs unless overtime is specifically stipulated by the requestor and clearly noted on the Detailed Itemization.

6. Itemization. All labor fee components shall be itemized using both the hourly wage and the number of hours charged on the Detailed Itemization.

7. Unreasonably High Costs. The labor fee shall not be charged for (1) searching for, locating and examining of public records, or (2) the cost of the deletion and separation of exempt information from non-exempt information, unless failure to charge a fee would result in unreasonably high costs to the Library because of the nature of the request in the particular instance, and the Library specifically identifies the nature of these unreasonably high costs. The FOIA Coordinator has authority to determine when the costs are unreasonably high in a particular instance, including, but not limited to, instances when the costs would be excessive and beyond the normal or usual amounts for responding to a request. In doing so, the FOIA Coordinator may take into account considerations such as the volume and complexity of the FOIA request as well as the Library's particular fiscal condition at the time of the request or any other conditions authorized by law.

B. *Other Costs.*

1. Nonpaper Physical Media. Costs for providing records on nonpaper physical media.

a. The requestor may stipulate that the public records be provided on nonpaper physical media, electronically mailed, or otherwise electronically provided to him or her in lieu of paper copies. The Library is not required to provide the documents on nonpaper physical media if it lacks the technological capability necessary to provide records on the requested particular nonpaper physical media.

b. For public records provided to the requestor on nonpaper physical media, the Library may charge the actual and most reasonably economical cost of the computer discs, computer tapes, or other digital or similar media.

The Library may use (but is not required to) a computer disc, thumb drive or other nonphysical media provided by the requestor but only if it is provided in its original packaging. Because the safety and security of the Library's computers and network is of important public interest, the Library may take that security interest into account when determining the means of providing the documents on nonpaper physical media.

2. Costs for Providing Paper Copies.

a. For paper copies of public records provided to the requestor, the Library may charge the actual total incremental cost of necessary duplication or publication, not including labor.

b. The cost of paper copies shall be calculated as a total cost per sheet of paper and shall be itemized and noted in a manner that expresses both the cost per sheet and the number of sheets provided.

c. The fee shall not exceed 10 cents per sheet of paper for copies of public records made on 8½ by 11 inch paper or 8½ by 14 inch paper. For all other paper sizes, the Library may charge the actual total incremental cost of duplication or publication, not including labor.

d. The Library shall utilize the most economical means available for making copies of public records, including using double-sided printing, if cost saving and available.

3. Mailing Costs.

a. The Library shall charge the actual cost of mailing, if any, for sending the public records in a reasonably economical and justifiable manner.

b. The Library shall not charge more for expedited shipping or insurance unless specifically stipulated by the requestor, but may otherwise charge for the least expensive form of postal delivery confirmation when mailing public records.

C. *Statutory Fees.* The fees set forth in this Section V do not apply to public records prepared under an act or statute specifically authorizing the sale of those public records to the public, or if the amount of the fee for providing a copy of the public record is otherwise specifically provided by an act or statute.