

October 1, 2014

Office of the Attorney General
Mr. John Jones, Asst Attorney General
Public Access Bureau
500 South Second Street
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: FOIA Request for Review - 2014 PAC 31285

Dear Mr. Jones:

On September 15, 2014 The Glen Ellyn Police Department summarily denied the request of John Kraft for copies of all DUI/DWI reports for the last twelve months as unduly burdensome. This response followed an initial request and denial as unduly burdensome for all DUI/DWI reports for the previous twenty-four months. At the Department's behest to modify the request, Kraft reduced his request to the last twelve months. A search of Glen Ellyn Police records indicated DUI/DWI 117 police arrest reports were written during that time period; namely September 1, 2013 - August 31, 2014. Kraft then was invited to "...articulate what (he was) was looking for, (so that) we can work toward a reasonable number of reports and/or information you're seeking." Kraft's response reiterated his desire to obtain all the reports from the twelve month period without qualification.

The Glen Ellyn Police Department is a small law enforcement agency with finite personnel resources and a wide variety of responsibilities. Many of these other duties are time sensitive: court transmittals, subpoena responses, LEADS validations, LEADS-related entries, expungements and other FOIA responses are just a few. In addition, calls for police service, other customer service-related responsibilities and operational support consume time every day. With all of these obligations, and the inherent interruptions, it would be unreasonable to expect the Department to produce 117 police reports, complete with redactions, and the required response articulating those exemptions exercised for 117 reports, in any reasonable amount of time, let alone five working days.

Kraft's request follows several FOIAs by a previous requestor, also affiliated with www.edgarcountywatchdogs.com, for Glen Ellyn DUI reports. Each request involved more records than the prior request. Now comes Kraft with his "simple" request that the Department furnish 117 police reports.

Speaking to the public interest issue, www.edgarcountywatchdogs.com shared with its readership their story on September 24, 2014 entitled, "AG Investigating Glen Ellyn for FOIA Denials". After a week on line, three followers posted an interest in this story. Two of the three respondents shared their concerns with Kraft. Responses include the following: "Tax payers shouldn't have to fund every citizens' fishing expeditions - no questions asked." and "The fact that now the AG is getting involved is just more waste of taxpayer money.... This is you looking for a fight where there is no wrong." and "So according to them they had 118 (sic) DUI arrests for the 12 month period....that does sound burdensome...". Contrary to Kraft's assertion, there seems to be an underwhelming lack of public interest in his pursuit of 117 Glen Ellyn DUI reports.

The Department does have the ability to generate some statistical information pertaining to its reports and arrests, charges, etc. We asked that Kraft articulate in greater detail what kind of information he sought by obtaining such a high volume of police reports, thinking we might satisfy his curiosity for information without effectively strangling Records operations for an extended period of time. The Department was not given that opportunity.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Patricia Taves
Records Supervisor
Glen Ellyn Police Department

Cc: Gregory Mathews

Via: Electronic Mail