

**From:** [Bonnie Kurowski](#)  
**To:** [EEC.CMS](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Complaint  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 22, 2020 7:00:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [STATE COMPLAINT.docx](#)

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To whom it may concern;

Im attaching my complaint.

Thank you,

Bonnie Kurowski

September 22, 2020

## STATE COMPLAINT

To Whom it may concern;

I am writing to file a complaint against DuPage Township Trustee Alyssa Benford. I believe she may be in violation of IL and Federal Laws.

As a DoD CAC Card holder who works in Government security, I take security breaches in high regard for the sake of our country's security, both nationally and locally. Upon seeing the below information, I felt obligated to file these complaints.

Although this complaint is for security breaches, the security breach contained information about another violation, which I am also including.

I am asking for a formal investigation and expedited action to the following allegations:

*Complaint #1: Breach of the security of the system data*

*Complaint #2: Violation of editing FOIA requested documents*

*Complaint #3: Conflict of interest*

*Complaint #4: Breach of the security of the system data compromising employee and other elected officials personal information*

Please confirm receipt and all communications electronically to [REDACTED].

Thanks,

Bonnie Kurowski

[REDACTED]

**Complaint #1: Trustee Benford has been forwarding government internal emails to people and MEDIA outside of the organization.**

(See Exhibit A). On July 30, 2020 Alyssa Benford forwarded an email to Anthony Timothee at 4:40pm. He is the founder, admin, and writer of Bolingbrook Politics Uncensored Facebook

page. Her forward was a tip for him to write an article. She states, "I really think you should say something about this on Bolingbrook politics. You can let me know your thoughts."

I have reason to believe that this has occurred with email transmissions in 2018- current with the Edgar County Watchdogs media site as well. This was based on a writing style analysis conducted on stories posted from their site.

The email chain that was forwarded was a result of an executive session meeting. The purpose of an executive session is to allow a confidential discussion of matters that could be detrimental to the local government, its officers, or its employees, if they were to be discussed in public. Mrs. Benford was more concerned with clearing her own personal name and reputation rather than securing the trust, laws, and job she was elected to do.

Exhibit A:

**From:** Alyssia Benford  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 30, 2020 4:40 PM  
**To:** Antonio Timothee  
**Subject:** FW: FOIA Request  
**Attachments:** BBABB\_2020\_07\_30\_16\_31\_49\_086.pdf

I really think you should say something about this on Bolingbrook Politics. You can let me know your thoughts.

**From:** Alyssia Benford  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 29, 2020 12:47 PM  
**To:** Amy Albright <aalbright@dupagetownship.com>  
**Cc:** Kulsum Ali <kali@dupagetownship.com>; Felix George <fgeorge@dupagetownship.com>  
**Subject:** Re: FOIA Request

I forwarded a copy of the letter to the clerk immediately following the meeting for the record, as I said I would after I read the comments.

That same letter was sent after our meeting to a commission that Peggy serves on. It's a sad day as an elected official to witness another elected official committing these actions against residents and then continuing after the victim responds.

Regarding item number 2, I will send you the details of the text conversation after I have a chance to redact any part of the conversation that is not township related or a part of this FOIA.

P.S and an aside, it's so interesting that someone that has come to our meetings and lied on me for two years assumes I'm guilty of their actions. Thank God I'm not. That is the nature of being an elected official. I always appreciate the opportunity to prove that I'm truthful and a will continue to be a voice for residents, no matter how many shots I have to take.

Regarding the

Alyssia Benford

On Jul 29, 2020, at 8:58 AM, Amy Albright <aalbright@dupagetownship.com> wrote:

Alyssia,  
Please see below FOIA request and provide me with said documents in order for me to respond to this FOIA request. This response will be due on 8/3. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Amy Albright  
DuPage Township Human Resource Coordinator

## Supporting Laws:

815 ILCS 530/1 "Breach of the security of the system data" or "breach" means unauthorized acquisition of computerized data that compromises the security, confidentiality, or integrity of personal information maintained by the data collector. "Breach of the security of the system data" does not include good faith acquisition of personal information by an employee or agent of the data collector for a legitimate purpose of the data collector, provided that the personal information is not used for a purpose unrelated to the data collector's business or subject to further unauthorized disclosure.

It is also possible that disclosure of confidential information may constitute "misfeasance" or "malfeasance" in office or a "violation of the oath of office," which could provide grounds for recall under RCW 29A.56.110.

## Conclusion Complaint #1:

*I believe that leaking confidential information to the media, using the company servers and email for transmitting internal communications, is a violation of security and a breach of information.*

*As you will see in my complaint #3, this breach could have even more security implications other than media leaks, albeit is still a serious offense as listed above.*

## Complaint #2: I believe Trustee Benford has been in violation of altering FOIA request documents.

In Complaint #1, Exhibit A.

Benford stated: *"Regarding item #2, I will send you the details of the text conversation after I have a chance to redact any part of the conversation that is not township related or a part of this FOIA."*

The entire text conversation is FOIAed, not what she deemed private vs personal vs business. She altered and destroyed documents, in violation of FOIA laws and Government Record Keeping laws, as well as local and state Record keeping laws. When you mix personal and business, the entire conversation becomes accessible by a FOIA request unless stated below as noted.

### Supporting Laws:

552. Public information; agency rules, opinions, orders, records, & proceedings

Since 1967, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) has provided the public the right to request access to records from any federal agency. It is often described as the law that keeps citizens in the know about their government. Federal agencies are required to disclose any information requested under the FOIA unless it falls under one of nine exemptions which protect interests such as personal privacy, national security, and law enforcement.

Under the FOIA and the FCC's implementing rules, you are allowed to obtain copies of FCC records unless the records contain information that is exempt under the FOIA from mandatory disclosure. [Section 552\(b\) of the FOIA](#) contains nine types of records which are routinely exempt from disclosure under the FOIA:

- *Records classified national defense or foreign policy materials, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(1);*
- *Internal personnel rules and agency practices, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(2);*
- *Information specifically exempted from disclosure by another statute, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3);*
- *Trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4);*
- *Inter- or intra-agency memoranda or letters which would not be available to a party in litigation with the agency, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5);*
- *Personnel, medical and similar files, disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6);*
- *Records compiled for law enforcement purposes, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7);*
- *Records relating to the examination, operations, or condition of financial institutions, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(8); and*
- *Oil well data, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(9).*

The Federal **Records Act** of 1950 is a United States federal **law** that was enacted in 1950. It provides the legal framework for federal **records management**, including **record** creation, maintenance, and disposition.

## Conclusion Complaint #2:

From the exhibit (A) it appears that redacting a part of FOIA information is the “norm”, and either she is unaware of the legal ramifications or knowledge of this behavior, or does know the ramifications and laws but will redact items to suit her needs.

Complaint #3/#4: Trustee Benford violated Conflict of interest by using her own company to make money from the Township and this transaction caused a Breach of Security/ Information to personal private information as follows:

On October 22, 2018, the former Township Supervisor Bill Mayer sent an email request to Benford to answer questions about Conflict of Interest. (See Exhibit B). This email asked specifically why Benford's private business used the Township credit card to purchase software, do the instal, and bill services. Benford convinced the office staff that their current company could not do a software install and stated her private business could do so. She took the purchased laptop from the office and retained it for a long amount of time, repeatedly being asked to return it. After return, Benford billed the Township for her private business sale of the download. She claimed that her children did the work, not herself, yet her company (owned 100%) was the invoice received. When the bills came due to be voted on and paid, she did not remove herself from the vote, and voted in favor of paying the bill. The Board nor Supervisor ever gave permissions for this service, bill, or process, which included asking for all employees personal information including SS#s and banking information.



Exhibits B:



Benford Brown & Associates  
343 N. Schmidt Road  
Bolingbrook, IL 60440  
Tel: (630) 679-9424  
Fax: (630) 679-9432  
[www.benfordbrown.com](http://www.benfordbrown.com)

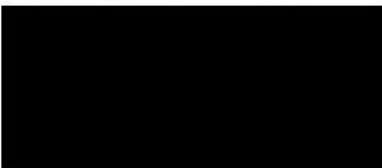
December 13, 2017

I need the following items to begin the QuickBooks setup. I have setup a folder on ShareFile under Terri's name. She should receive an email notification. Please have her upload all the items listed below as PDF files. The payroll items and the year to date general ledger is the most urgent part so we can run a parallel payroll before year end.

- 1) Chart of Accounts
- 2) Year to date General Ledger
- 3) General Ledger for the last fiscal year
- 4) Copies of all bank statements for all bank accounts for the current fiscal year
- 5) For all employees, I need a copy of their employee record that includes (name, social security number, banking information for direct deposit, tax withholding information and other payroll deductions
- 6) Also for the employees, please provide me with a copy of their last paycheck stub.

If there are any question, please contact me at 630-679-9424

Sincerely,



Alyssia Benford, CPA  
Partner

**[tbethune@dupagetownship.com](mailto:tbethune@dupagetownship.com)**

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**From:** Alyssia Benford <[abenford@benfordbrown.com](mailto:abenford@benfordbrown.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 8, 2018 2:07 PM  
**To:** [tbethune@dupagetownship.com](mailto:tbethune@dupagetownship.com)  
**Subject:** Riah Levy's Rate

Riah Levy's rate is \$25/hour. Please email her when the check is ready and she is come and pick it up.

Employee	Date	Hours worked	Description
Riah Levy	3/5/2017	3	Township
	3/6/2017	2	Township
	3/7/2017	4	Township
	3/8/2017	4	Township
	3/9/2017	1	
Riah Levy	3/12/2017	1	Township
	3/13/2017	4	Township
	3/14/2017	2	Township
	3/15/2017	2	Township
	3/16/2017	1	Township
TOTAL		24	

⑨

@ 25<sup>00</sup> hr

\$ 600<sup>00</sup>

Book  
Training  
1530



Call  
Alyssa  
TO P/U

Date: 03/09/2018-[04:44:08 PM CST]  
From: BBA Bolingbrook Admin  
To: tbethune@dupagetownship.com  
Subject: RE: Timesheet

Thank you, can you please give the check to my mother at the fish fry tonight?

Riah Levy

From: tbethune@dupagetownship.com [mailto:tbethune@dupagetownship.com]  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2018 4:29 PM  
To: BBA Bolingbrook Admin <badmin@benfordbrown.com>  
Subject: RE: Timesheet

*will be leaving the check with our Administrator Linda Youngs. Linda will be seeing Alyssia at our Fish Fry this evening*

Have a wonderful weekend.

Terri Bethune

DuPage Township Accountant

241 Canterbury Lane

Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Phone: 630-759-1317

Fax: 630-759-3412

From: BBA Bolingbrook Admin [mailto:badmin@benfordbrown.com]  
Sent: Friday, March 9, 2018 1:00 PM  
To: Tbethune@dupagetownship.com <mailto:Tbethune@dupagetownship.com>;  
Alyssia Benford <abenford@benfordbrown.com>  
<mailto:abenford@benfordbrown.com>  
Subject: Timesheet

Good afternoon,

September 18, 2020

Via Electronic Mail: [REDACTED]

Ms. Bonnie Kurowski

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request 20-43  
DuPage Township

Dear Ms. Kurowski:

Thank you for writing to the Township of DuPage ("Township") with your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.

On September 17, 2020 you requested the following documents:

**"Alyssia Benford allowed her daughters access to the financial records and information approx. (2 years ago in a private, unsupervised meeting.)"**

This includes any and all information pertaining to the above mentioned topic.

1. Meeting minutes that discussed this issue and passing/ voting the payment to her two daughters, amount of payment and name on payment **No responsive documents per your request**
2. Agenda's for this issue **No responsive documents per your request**
3. Emails between Trustees regarding this issue, as well as to attorneys **See attached**
4. Documents to show that she had authorization prior to this transaction. Example, bids for service, invoices, permission to do this, Non-disclosures, any all documents pertaining to this transaction for business. **No responsive documents per your request**
5. Any information regarding Ethics violations including meetings of discussion, submitting to the State of violations, and write-ups. **No responsive documents per your request**
6. Video's **No responsive documents per your request**
7. Audio **No responsive documents per your request**

**Amy Albright**

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**From:** William Mayer  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2018 6:41 PM  
**To:** Alyssia Benford  
**Cc:** John Spina  
**Subject:** Questions Part 2

Trustee Benford,

\*Please provide the Township Code, Ordinance or Resolution that shows that BKD, LLP as Township Auditor for 2016-2017 would not be able to assist with the 2018 QuickBooks transition?

\*Please provide the Township Code, Ordinance, Resolution or Board Approval that allowed you to direct a vendor to setup a laptop that provided your CPA firm to remote access into our Township Government System?

\*Please provide the Township Code, Ordinance, Resolution or Board Approval that allows Benford Brown & Associates to conduct any work within our Township Government?

You stated in your 5-22-18 Trustee Comments that:

11-16-17 - My office ordered the QuickBooks Software using Linda's credit card. The fee was \$874.43. Over the next week or so, Linda and I discussed identifying someone to assist with the data entry for the transition. Linda recommended BKD. I informed her that they audit firm could not assist with the transition as they would need to remain independent of the process. I was able to offer Rita Lee and Riah Levy to help with the transition. Both Rita Lee and Riah Levy work for me in my family owned business. While they are not my biological children, I was married to their father from 1996-2008 and I still maintain a relationship with them as my daughters.

12-7-17 – A laptop was purchased for the QuickBooks Transition. Anthony D'Andrea from Ateki was instructed by me to setup the laptop at the township and we would remote into the system.

Bill Mayer  
DuPage Township Supervisor

## Amy Albright

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**From:** abenford@dupagetownship.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2018 1:48 PM  
**To:** tbethune@dupagetownship.com  
**Subject:** RE: Riah Levy's Check

I called down to the Clerk, the reporting is based on 2017 Calendar year. It would be anything in excess of \$5,000 based on question #3 of the form. They said it would only pertain to me or my spouse, but I was still going to list Rita or Riah since we used to be related.

I am sure neither Rita Lee or Riah Levy received more than \$5,000 in 2016 or 2017.

Thank you for your help.

**From:** tbethune@dupagetownship.com <tbethune@dupagetownship.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 6, 2018 11:26 AM  
**To:** abenford@dupagetownship.com  
**Subject:** RE: Riah Levy's Check

I am waiting approval to cut the check. As soon as I do I will cut the \$500.00 check.

For you Statement of Economic Interest:

3/9/18	Riah Levy	\$600.00
3/16/18	Riah Levy	\$500.00
TBD	Riah Levy	\$500.00

*Terri Bethune*  
*DuPage Township Accountant*  
*241 Canterbury Lane*  
*Bolingbrook, IL 60440*  
*Phone: 630-759-1317*  
*Fax: 630-759-3412*

**From:** abenford@dupagetownship.com [mailto:abenford@dupagetownship.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 6, 2018 10:28 AM  
**To:** tbethune@dupagetownship.com  
**Subject:** Riah Levy's Check

Terri,

I am a bit behind with emails. Please call Riah Levy at 708-698-0281 when her check is ready for pick up. No rush, just wanted to connect you directly to her.

Also, please email me to the total amount paid to her, when you can. I will report it on my statement of economic interest.

## Supporting Laws:

*Violation A: Public Officers Prohibited Activities Act states that "no person holding office, may be in any manner financially interested directly in his own name or indirectly in the name of any*

*other person, association, trust, or corporation, in any contract or the performance of any work in the making or letting of such officer may be called upon to act or vote.*

*Violation B: 105/3 )(a) contracts made in violation of the IL conflict may be called upon to act or vote.*

*105/3 (a) contracts made in violation of the IL conflict of interest statues are void. A public officer who violates a conflict of interest statue is guilty of a class 4 felony, punishable by up to three years in prison and a fine up to \$10,000. In addition, the officer is removed from public office.*

*Violation C: 815 ILCS 530/1 "Breach of the security of the system data" or "breach" means unauthorized acquisition of computerized data that compromises the security, confidentiality, or integrity of personal information maintained by the data collector. "Breach of the security of the system data" does not include good faith acquisition of personal information by an employee or agent of the data collector for a legitimate purpose of the data collector, provided that the personal information is not used for a purpose unrelated to the data collector's business or subject to further unauthorized disclosure.*

*Personal information" means either of the following:*

*(1) An individual's first name or first initial and*

*last name in combination with any one or more of the following data elements, when either the name or the data elements are not encrypted or redacted or are encrypted or redacted but the keys to unencrypt or unredact or otherwise read the name or data elements have been acquired without authorization through the breach of security:*

*(A) Social Security number.*

*(B) Driver's license number or State*

*identification card number.*

*(C) Account number or credit or debit card*



*number, or an account number or credit card number in combination with any required security code, access code, or password that would permit access to an individual's financial account.*

*(D) Medical information.*

*(E) Health insurance information.*

*(F) Unique biometric data generated from*

*measurements or technical analysis of human body characteristics used by the owner or licensee to authenticate an individual, such as a fingerprint, retina or iris image, or other unique physical representation or digital representation of biometric data.*

*"Personal information" does not include publicly available information that is lawfully made available to the general public from federal, State, or local government records.*

*(Source: P.A. 99-503, eff. 1-1-17.)*

*(815 ILCS 530/20)*

*Sec. 20. Violation. A violation of this Act constitutes an unlawful practice under the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act.*

*(Source: P.A. 94-36, eff. 1-1-06.)*

## **Conclusion Complaint #3/4:**

1. She removed a computer from the premises without Supervisor permission
2. She installed a software (Not her job as a Trustee)
3. She accessed employees personal info including SS# and banking info by demanding and requesting the entire files from HR.
4. She billed the Township for services rendered.
5. She voted to pay the bill without recusing herself. The bill was shot down by the other Trustees and this activity was called into question.
6. She had no permission to do the work, nothing voted on or any documentation, according to my FOIA request, that anyone authorized her company to perform said work, or that nobody in the office was capable of installing the Out of the box software.

Therefore, she stepped outside her role to do unauthorized work, accessing information of employees, without an NDA in place, and to pay herself money from the Township of which she served.

**From:** Berlin, Robert  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020 11:11 AM  
**To:** [Alexa.C.Elam@illinois.gov](mailto:Alexa.C.Elam@illinois.gov)  
**Cc:** Smith, Lisa <[Lisa.Smith@dupageco.org](mailto:Lisa.Smith@dupageco.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Referral - Alleged Complaint

Alexa: Please be advised that although it sounds confusing, DuPage Township is actually in Will County.  
Thank you very much.  
Bob Berlin

Robert B. Berlin  
DuPage County State's Attorney  
503 N. County Farm Road  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
630-407-8165