



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

KWAME RAOUL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 8, 2023

Via electronic mail

Mr. Kirk Allen
Edgar County Watchdogs
P.O. Box 593
Kansas, Illinois 61933
Kirk@illinoisleaks.com

RE: FOIA Request for Review – 2023 PAC 78743

Dear Mr. Allen:

On October 25, 2023, you submitted a Request for Review to the Public Access Bureau alleging that the McDonough County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) improperly denied your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.* (West 2022)) request for a copy of the blocked users list from its official Facebook page. After this office sent a copy of your Request for Review to the Sheriff's Office and sought an explanation, the Sheriff's Office verified that its Facebook page currently has no blocked accounts. You inquired about when the unblocking occurred.

This morning, an Assistant Attorney General in the Public Access Bureau contacted the Sheriff's Office to confirm what transpired with the blocked users list and was told that the administrator of the Facebook page also administers various other Facebook pages that were linked, such that when he unblocked users from his personal page upon receipt of the Request for Review, there were no longer blocked users on the Sheriff's Office's official page. Subsequently, I relayed that explanation to you, and you confirmed that the individual who had been blocked on the Sheriff's Office's official page was no longer blocked.

Thus, the Sheriff's Office's course of action with respect to your FOIA request and Request for review has been clarified, and the allegation about withholding the blocked users list is now moot. Under these circumstances, this matter has been resolved, and this letter serves to close the file.

Mr. Kirk Allen
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Please contact me at joshua.jones@ilag.gov if you have questions or would like to discuss. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jm Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JOSHUA M. JONES
Deputy Bureau Chief
Public Access Bureau

78743 f inf r co

cc: *Via electronic mail*
Ms. Cindy Branch
FOIA Officer
McDonough County Sheriff's Office
110 South McArthur Street
Macomb, Illinois 61455
cbranch@sheriff.mcdonough.il.us