

October 30, 2015

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Daniel Hamilton
Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP
Email: dhamilton@bhslaw.com

RE: 15-FOIA-214 Davidoff Communications

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

We are in receipt of your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.* (“**FOIA**”).

I. Background

On October 15, 2015, we received your request for:

Copies of any and all communications, recommendations, and documents related to work performed by the firm Davidoff Communications on behalf of or in any way related to Metra, dated or occurring on or a date between March 1, 2015 and March 15, 2015. This request shall include but not be limited to: (1) any and all communications by and between Davidoff Communications (or any intermediary acting on or behalf of Davidoff Communications) and Metra staff, Metra Officials, Metra Officers, Agents of Metra, Metra Board Members (or any intermediary acting on or behalf of Metra staff, Metra Officials, Metra Officers, Agents of Metra, Metra Board Members), and (2) any and all recommendations and/or documents provided by or to Davidoff Communications, Metra staff, Metra Officials, Metra Officers, Agents of Metra, Metra Board Members).

(“**Request**”). Your Request is granted in part and denied in part.

We contacted you on October 21, 2015, asking if you would consider narrowing down the scope of your Request to communications between March 1 to March 7. You responded on October 21, 2015, agreeing to the narrowed scope.

II. Responsive Documents

In response to your Request, Metra is providing you all communications and documents between Davidoff Communications and Metra personnel between March 1 and March 7 (“**Responsive Documents**”).

III. Denial

Attorney Thomas Stuebner has determined that the following documents are exempt from disclosure under the following sections:

- Pages 10-71 and one (1) email attachment are being withheld in its entirety under section 7(1)(f) of FOIA. Section 7(1)(f) exempts from disclosure any “[p]reliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated . . . [.]” 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(f). Accordingly, the aforementioned pages and email attachment are draft documents exempt under Section 7(1)(f).
- Pages 10-71 are being withheld in their entirety under section 7(1)(h) of FOIA. Section 7(1)(h) exempts “[p]roposals and bids for any contract, grant, or agreement, including information which if it were disclosed would frustrate procurement or give an advantage to any person proposing to enter into a contractor agreement with the body, until an award or final selection is made.” Accordingly, the aforementioned pages are exempt under Section 7(1)(h).

IV. Right of Review

You have the right to have the denial of your Request reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (“PAC”) of the Illinois Attorney General’s Office. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to:

Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
Fax: 217-782-1396
E-mail: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us.

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of this denial letter. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this denial letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC.

You also have the right to seek judicial review of your partial denial by filing a lawsuit in the circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jamie V. Harrmann
Freedom of Information Officer
FOIA@metrarr.com

Attachment