

Sarah Pratt
Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 S. 2nd Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Ms. Pratt,

The City of Bloomington was provided with a FOIA request by me on July 24th, 2015, and I was specifically looking for the following information:

Please provide a complete list of all Land and Real Estate Developers over 365 days in arrears in paying Development Fees to the City of Bloomington. List each business by name and amount owed.

Please provide a complete list of all business's currently over 365 in arrears in paying any form of Taxes and /or Fines to the City of Bloomington. List each business by name and amount owed.

I was seeking this information because I had personally learned that a Snyder Company has owed the City of Bloomington for Land and Real Estate Development Fees amounting to \$562,194.78 since 1994, and that there is a possibility other Developers also owe the City of Bloomington like fees as well. Likewise, I am also curious about other businesses that owed the City past due monies in the form of taxes and/or fines. Given the City's history with allowing some businesses to get away without paying taxes, or following up in a timely manner to collect past due taxes, I felt a need to file a FOIA Request to determine the current balances owed to the City of Bloomington.

As you can see from the emails I have attached, the City responded to the questions regarding taxes and fines, but has refused to respond to my inquiry regarding fees owed by Land and Real Estate Developers . The City did not ask for an extension to research in the usual manner, and it is apparent they sent the request to the wrong department on purpose for whatever reason. This request was a very simple collection request that should of gone to the Finance Department, and they had ample time to provide the answer I am seeking. The only reason for not releasing this information that it will show that some Developers are allowed to not to pay their Development fees as required by City Ordinance, while others are required to comply with the law. In addition, release of this information would be politically embarrassing to many power brokers in the city. While the City of Bloomington continues to raise taxes and fees on it's citizens, it is an abomination that city officials might be cutting deals or might be enjoying a quid pro quo at the expense of the taxpaying public.

I ask that you review this matter and find that the City of Bloomington has violated the Freedom of Information Act 5 ILCS140, and direct them to release the requested to me as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Kevin S. Gerrard