

September 18, 2015

**VIA E-MAIL**

Mr. Robert Carlton

Email: [REDACTED]

RE: 15-FOIA-181 Contracts, Payments & Emails

Dear Mr. Carlton:

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 September 3, 2015, we received your request for:

1. Copies of any contracts and payments between Metra and the firm Challenger, Gray and Christmas (a Chicago-based outplacement firm); and
2. Copies of all communications between any Metra employees and employees of Challenger, Gray and Christmas from 1/1/2014 through the current date.

(“Request”).

**II. Responsive Documents**

In response to your Request, Metra is providing you with:

- A copy of purchase order #S53813;
- After performing a diligent search of Metra’s records, we have been unable to locate any records responsive to that portion of your request for payments between Metra and the firm Challenger, Gray and Christmas. Metra’s Accounts Payable Department advised that they have not yet received any invoices from this firm, but expect to pay them when received; and
- Two (2) emails related to communications from or to Challenger, Gray and Christmas from 1/1/2014 to current date.

**III. Partial Denial**

While FOIA requires public bodies to provide access to public records generally, FOIA also authorizes units of government to withhold certain "private information." 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b). "Private information" is defined as "unique identifiers, including a person's social security number, driver's license number, employee identification number, biometric identifiers, personal financial information, passwords or other access codes, medical records, home or personal telephone numbers, and personal e-mail addresses," as well as home address, and personal license plates. 5 ILCS 140/2(c-5). Accordingly,

Mr. Robert Carlton  
15-FOIA-181 Contracts, Payments & Emails  
Page 2 of 2

per Attorney Thomas Stuebner, any such private information within the above-mentioned report has been redacted.

#### **IV. Right of Review**

You have the right to have the partial 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](mailto: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 partial denial letter. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this partial 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.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Haton  
Freedom of Information Officer  
[FOIA@metrarr.com](mailto:FOIA@metrarr.com)

Attachments