



OFFICE OF MAYOR BRANDON JOHNSON
CITY OF CHICAGO

October 19, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE

George Main
george@gemiv.net

**RE: Notice of Response to FOIA Request
FOIA File No.: F155072**

Dear George Main,

On behalf of the City of Chicago Office of the Mayor, I am responding to your Freedom of Information Act request received by this department on October 8, 2026, requesting:

All emails sent or received by Mayor Brandon Johnson from May 15, 2023 (start of his term) through the date this request is processed that reference the McDonald's restaurant chain or McDonald's Corporation, including any of the following terms: "McDonald's," "McDonalds," "Mc Donalds," "MCD," or "Golden Arches." This request does not seek emails that mention individuals with the surname McDonald, and I ask that such emails be excluded unless they also reference the restaurant chain.

Your request was reviewed by the undersigned. As permitted by Section 5 ILCS 140/3(e) of the Act, the time was extended to conduct a thorough search for these records. A search of the Mayor's Office records was conducted based on the parameters provided. Information responsive to your request is available and attached.

Please be advised that certain information has been redacted from the enclosed responsive records pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b), 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c), 7(1)(d)(vi), 7(1)(d)(v), and 7(1)(v). Details of the redactions are set forth below:

Section 7(1)(b) exempts from disclosure "[p]rivate information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law or a court order." 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b). The FOIA, in 5 ILCS 140/2(c-5), defines "private information" as follows:

"Private information" means 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 email addresses. Private information also

includes home address and personal license plates, except as otherwise provided by law or when compiled without possibility of attribution to any person.”

Therefore, personal cell phone numbers, home addresses and email addresses are exempt and were properly redacted pursuant to Section 7(1)(b).

We have redacted personal events and third-party names from the enclosed records pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c) of FOIA. Section 7(1)(c) exempts from inspection and copying the following:

“[P]ersonal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy... ‘Unwarranted invasion of personal privacy’ means the disclosure of information is that highly personal or objectionable to reasonable person and in which the subject’s right to privacy outweighs any legitimate public interest in obtaining the information.” *Id.*

The release of this information would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy because it would be highly personal or objectionable to a reasonable person. There is no real public interest in the information either. Thus, the subject's right of privacy outweighs the public interest in the information, and the Mayor's Office has properly redacted the information under Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA.

We have also redacted information pursuant to Section 7(1)(d)(vi), which exempts from disclosure:

(d) Records in the possession of any public body created in the course of administrative enforcement proceedings, and any law enforcement or correctional agency for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that disclosure would:

(vi) endanger the life or physical safety of law enforcement personnel or any other person;

Additionally, section 7(1)(d)(v) (West 2010), as amended by Public Acts 97-333, effective August 12, 2011; 97-385, effective August 15, 2011; 97-452, effective August 19, 2011) which exempts records that would, "[d]isclose unique or specialized investigative techniques other than those generally used and known or disclose internal documents of correctional agencies related to detection, observation or investigation of incidents of crime or misconduct, and disclosure would result in demonstrable harm to the agency or public body that is the recipient of the request." 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(d)(v). Therefore, the names of officers assigned to the mayor’s detail have been redacted.

Please be advised that information concerning the mayor’s security detail members was also redacted pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(v). Section 7(1)(v) protects from disclosure:

“[v]ulnerability assessments, security measures, and response policies or plans that are designed to identify, prevent, or respond to potential attacks upon a community's population or systems, facilities, or installations, the destruction or contamination of which would constitute a clear and present danger to the health or safety of the

community, but only to the extent that disclosure could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the effectiveness of the measures or the safety of the personnel who implement them or the public. Information exempt under this item may include such things as details pertaining to the mobilization or deployment of personnel or equipment, to the operation of communication systems or protocols, or to tactical operations.”

To ensure the safety of the individuals, such information about security detail members must be redacted pursuant to Section 7(1)(v).

You have the right to a review under 5 ILCS 140-9.5(a) by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, 500 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706, Phone: (877)299-3642, Fax: (217)782-1396, E-mail: public.access@ilag.gov. You may also seek judicial review of a denial under 5 ILCS 140/11 by filing a lawsuit in the State Circuit Court.

Sincerely,

Hibo Aden
FOIA Officer