

October 10, 2019

Rebecca Spellmeyer
[REDACTED]

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Ms. Spellmeyer:

This is to follow up on my correspondence with you on October 3, 2019, regarding your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. As the Vice President for Communications and External Affairs, I am responsible for processing requests for public information for the College, pursuant to *the Illinois Freedom of Information Act*, 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.

Parkland College District No. 505 received your FOIA request on September 26, 2019 5:14 p.m. via electronic mail. On October 3, 2019, the College contacted you to inform you that it would extend the response time by five business days pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/3(e) for the following reasons:

- Responding to the request requires that we collect a substantial number of specified records.
- We cannot comply with the request for records within the five business day time limit without unduly burdening or interfering with our operations.
- The request is couched in categorical terms and requires that we conduct an extensive search for the records responsive to it.

The following is the original request submitted to the College for responsive records:

"I would like to have all information (memos, emails, letters, etc) from and between B Mercer, K Hastings, M Trame, M Turner, N Sutton, A Jancola, B Haduch, L Wright, and E Zimmerman regarding my removal from K Hastings 098 course in the Fall of 2017. Those that included my email [REDACTED] may be excluded."

Parkland College's Response:

The College has attached a PDF containing the responsive documents. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(f), many documents requested are exempt from disclosure. This provision of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act explicitly exempts "preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated." Many records requested are deliberative or preliminary in nature and are, thus, exempt.

As Vice President for Communications and External Affairs, I am responsible for granting and denying the requests for records under the *Freedom of Information Act*. Please be aware that this response to your request is pursuant to my understanding of your FOIA request. If I have misunderstood your request, please let me know as soon as possible so I may provide the correct information.

Finally, if you believe that this response constitutes a denial of your request, you have the right to have this response reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. 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

You also have the right to seek judicial review of this response by filing a lawsuit in the State circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the Public Access Counselor or State court, you will need to include a copy of this letter for the review.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Stephanie L. Stuart
Vice President for Communications and External Affairs

HARD COPY

CC: FILE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MS. LORNA GEILER, ATTORNEY MEYER, CAPEL, LLC.
DR. THOMAS RAMAGE, PRESIDENT