



CITY OF CHICAGO



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
ANNA M. VALENCIA

August 7, 2020
Via Email

Tracy Siska
Chicago Justice Project
105 W. Madison St., Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60604
tsiska@chicagojustice.org

Dear Ms. Siska:

This letter is in response to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) request sent on July 26, 2020 and received by the City of Chicago Office of the City Clerk on June 27, 2020. An extension was sought on August 3, 2020 and we are now timely responding to your request seeking:

- **FOIA A**
 - *Documents sufficient to show (or from which may be derived), membership on the Chicago City Council Committees detailed below for the years 2000-2020.*
 - *In order to reduce the burden of responding to this FOIA request, in the alternative to producing all such documents, we would accept as a complete response to this FOIA if you simply provided a list of the yearly membership for each committee.*
- **FOIA B**
 - *Documents sufficient to show (or from which may be derived), the terms served for each of the alderman detailed in FOIA A on the City Council Committees detailed below.*
 - *City Council Committees*
 - *Committee on Public Safety*
 - *Committee on Finance*
 - *Committee on Police and Fire*

In response to your request, please note that the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) requires a public body, such as the Office of the City Clerk to produce documents but does not require that our Office create documents. *See* 5 ILCS 140/3(a) (“Each public body shall make available to any person for inspection or copying all public records, except as otherwise provided in Sections 7 and 8.5 of this Act.”). FOIA does not require the public body to provide answers to questions or create documents.



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Therefore, the Office of the City Clerk is under no obligation to create documents.

Our Office does not maintain a list of membership of the various City Council Committees. However, this information can be obtained through the Journals of Proceedings which are available online at the following link:

<https://www.chicityclerk.com/legislation-records/journals-and-reports/journals-proceedings>

The Journals are searchable for the following: Committee Assignments: Assignments of Chairmen and Members of each City Council Committee. The terms served are per the election cycles.

The easiest search method would be to search by the Inaugural Meeting Dates for information of terms served and Reconvened Meeting dates for information on which Aldermen were members of each City Council Committee and the names of each City Council Committee

Inaugural Meeting Date	Reconvened Meeting Date
May 3, 1999	May 12, 1999
May 5, 2003	May 7, 2003
May 21, 2007	May 23, 2007
May 16, 2011	May 18, 2011
May 18, 2015	May 20, 2015
May 20, 2019	May 29, 2019

To the extent you consider this to be a denial of your FOIA request, you have a right to seek review by the Public Access Counselor (“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 letter -5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this response when filing a Request for



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Review with the PAC. You also have the right to seek judicial review of this response-5 ILCS 140/11.

Sincerely,

Michelle Levar
Deputy Chief Legal Counsel