



# City of Lansing

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

JAMES D. SMIERTKA, CITY ATTORNEY

March 15, 2021

Steven Harry  
[stevenrharry@gmail.com](mailto:stevenrharry@gmail.com)

*Sent Via Email & U.S. Mail*

RE: Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") Request  
# 21-304 – All Employee Wage and Salary

Dear Mr. Harry:

In response to your Freedom of Information Act request referenced above, your request is granted in part and denied in part. Please note that no fee has been assessed for processing this request.

Your request for certain information on every City employee who received wages in 2020 did not yield a document that contained all of that information. The responsive record, containing wage and salary information for every employee, is attached. We based our search for documents on the example you provided from 2011.

To the extent your request calls for information also listing department, job title, union affiliation, pay rate, final leave payment, hire date, and termination date, your request is denied as no such records containing all of that information were identified. MCL 15.235(5)(b). This letter serves as a certificate that the requested documents do not exist under the name provided by you or another name reasonably known to the City. Furthermore, the City is not required by the Freedom of Information Act to create a compilation of information or new public record. MCL 15.233(4) & (5).

Please be advised that the City has adopted Procedures and Guidelines and a Written Public Summary, both of which are available on the City's website at:

<https://www.lansingmi.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/618>

<https://www.lansingmi.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/415>

*Appeal of denial of records.* You are entitled under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.240, to appeal this denial to the President of City Council or to commence an action in the Circuit Court within 180 days after the City's final determination to deny a request, to compel disclosure of the requested records if you believe they were wrongfully withheld from disclosure. If, after judicial review, the court determines that the City has not

complied with MCL 15.235 in making this denial and orders disclosure of all or a portion of a public record, you have the right to receive attorneys' fees and damages as provided in MCL 15.240. If the court determines in an action commenced under this section that the public body has arbitrarily and capriciously violated this act by refusal or delay in disclosing or providing copies of a public record, the court shall order the public body to pay a civil fine of \$1,000.00, which shall be deposited into the general fund of the state treasury. The court shall award, in addition to any actual or compensatory damages, punitive damages in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the person seeking the right to inspect or receive a copy of a public record.

*Appeal of excessive fee.* You are entitled under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.240a, to appeal a FOIA fee that you believe exceeds the amount permitted under the City's written Procedures and Guidelines to the President of City Council or to commence an action in the Circuit Court for a fee reduction within 45 days after receiving the notice of the required fee or a determination of an appeal to the President of City Council. If a civil action is commenced in court, the City is not obligated to compete processing the request until the court resolves the fee dispute. If the court determines that the City required a fee that exceeded the permitted amount, the court shall reduce the fee to a permissible amount.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory S. Venker", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gregory S. Venker  
Office of the City Attorney

GSV