



OFFICE OF THE CLERK/TREASURER

City of Burlington

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November 27, 2013

Evan Hughes, VFSC Vice-President
16 Millstone Blvd.
Barre, VT 05641

RE: Freedom of Information Request, October 18, 2013 email

Dear Mr. Hughes:

I want to give you an update on the work the City has done and will continue to do on VFSC's records request seeking to inspect public records created or acquired on and after January 1, 2012 related to local or state regulation or restriction of firearms or other weapons within the city of Burlington or state of Vermont.

1. We have a small group of documents for inspection and a new exemption log (#5) for you today that covers the records for the individuals listed on October 18.
2. For the records requested October 18th ("phase 1"), we have provided access to:
 - a. All of the non-exempt paper documents received by the clerk/treasurer's office for the city council. These include agendas, minutes, resolutions, and communications.
 - b. All of the non-exempt paper documents in the city council's public safety and charter change committees. These include agendas, minutes, resolutions, and communications.
 - c. An audio recording of a city council meeting and URLs for Facebook and Twitter accounts. Please note that the URL for access to the city's video-taped meetings is: <http://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/municipalities/burlington>.
 - d. Over 1800 records gathered through the search for councilors Shannon, Siegel, Blais, and Ayres, Mayor Weinberger, and Chief Schirling. These are records on the City's and the individuals' accounts and devices. As you know, many were duplicates due to the nature of electronic searches.
 - e. Please note that this search also swept up over 1200 records that we reviewed and determined were not related to the regulation or restriction of firearms or other weapons but were swept up in the electronic search.
 - f. 117 documents for which exemptions have been claimed, all listed in logs.
3. We have now completed the gathering of electronic documents (998) for councilors Worden, Knodell, Tracy, Brennan, Hartnett, Aubin, Mason, Paul, Bushor and Decelles ("phase 2") and will begin reviewing them for responsiveness and exemptions. Based on our experience to date, I expect we will have many duplicates and non-responsive documents.

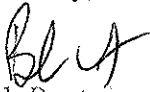
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4. After we complete phase 2, we will begin a review of the documents ("phase 3") gathered from the phase 1 group for the period October 24, 2013 to the present.
5. After we complete phase 3, we will return to the process of reviewing and logging ("phase 4") those documents that we consider are in whole or in part exempt from disclosure. As we have said, we are looking at ways to find a more efficient and cost effective way to provide the exemption logs and those documents that require redaction in order to speed up completion of this process.

I also want to address the previous search we conducted and I noted in my October 17th letter.

1. That search gathered over 18,000 electronic documents based on a search of all city emails from January 1, 2012 using search terms "firearms", "guns", "weapons", "knives", "bows & arrows", and "assault rifle".
2. It is clear that this search has gathered predominantly non-responsive and duplicative documents.
3. Although only the City Council and a few members of the Mayor's administration were involved in any way in the discussion on gun regulations, as your PRR requested the search swept up records from all city employees, many hundreds of individuals.
4. It is clear to me that this search has identified many more records than those that are responsive to your request and the City would have to expend significant taxpayer-paid resources if we were to review all of these records to determine if any are responsive to your request.
5. Therefore, I request that you please provide another focused request for documents, like you did on October 18th, so we can conduct an effective and efficient search and review of the public records you want to inspect.

Sincerely,



Bob Rusten
Chief Administrative Officer

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