



August 12, 2019

**VIA E-MAIL**

Ms. Dawn Austin  
[REDACTED]

RE: 19-FOIA-221 Info - Mechanic Apprentice Position

Dear Ms. Austin:

We are in receipt of your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.* (“FOIA”).

**I. Background**

On August 1, 2019, we received your request for information regarding the Mechanic Apprentice position which was closed on July 14, 2019. Specifically, you requested to know the gender, age, education qualifications, race and external or internal of the person(s) who will be receiving the position (“Request”). Your Request is denied.

**II. Denial**

Your Request is denied inasmuch as you are seeking information that is pre-decisional in nature involving recommendations and opinions concerning an on-going recruitment process. Section 7(1)(f) of FOIA states records that are, “[p]reliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated . . . [.]” are exempt from disclosure. 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(f). Metra’s Human Resources department advises that the Mechanic Apprentice recruitment process is on-going and would not be finalized until mid-October 2019. Therefore, Attorney Keith Pardonnet has determined that the requested information falls squarely within the definition of Section 7(1)(f) of the FOIA.

**III. Right of Review**

You have the right to have the denial of your Request reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (“PAC”) of the Illinois Attorney General’s Office. 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](mailto:publicaccess@atg.state.il.us).

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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 denial letter. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this denial letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC.

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

If we can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Haton  
Freedom of Information Officer  
[FOIA@metrarr.com](mailto:FOIA@metrarr.com)  
FOIA Hotline #312-663-3642