



August 31, 2016

VIA E-MAIL

Ms. Richelle McGuire
HRV Conformance Verification Associates, Inc.
Email: RMcGuire@hrvinc.com

RE: 16-FOIA-193 Bureau Veritas Master Purchase Agreement #P0205

Dear Ms. McGuire:

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 2, 2016, we received your request for a copy of the Bureau Veritas contract relative to IFB No. 18152-Master Purchase Agreement for Inspection of Trackwork Material and for information regarding when the next IFB will be advertised (“**Request**”). Your Request is granted in part and denied in part.

II. Responsive Document

In response to your Request, Metra is providing you with a copy of the Master Purchase Agreement No. P0205 with Bureau Veritas (“**Responsive Document**”). The date for the next Invitation for Bid has not been determined.

III. Partial Denial

While FOIA requires public bodies to provide access to public records generally, FOIA also authorizes units of government to withhold certain information. Therefore, Attorney Jamie Harrmann has determined that the following portions of the Responsive Document are exempt from disclosure under certain provisions of FOIA:

1. The unique identifier (tax identification number) and personal financial information (insurance account numbers) of the parties mentioned in the Responsive Documents are being redacted because they are exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(b) of FOIA, which exempts “private information.” “Private information” is defined as unique identifiers, including a person's social security number, driver's license number, employee identification number, biometric identifiers, personal financial information, passwords or other access codes, medical records, home or personal telephone numbers, and personal email addresses.
2. Personal information mentioned in the Responsive Documents has been redacted because it is exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA, which exempts “personal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy....” Section 7(1)(c) goes on to say that,

“Unwarranted invasion of personal privacy’ means the disclosure of information that is highly personal or objectionable to a reasonable person and in which the subject's right to privacy outweighs any legitimate public interest in obtaining the information.”

3. Certain portions of the Responsive Documents are exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(g) of FOIA. Section 7(1)(g) states that, “trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person or business” can be exempt “where the trade secrets or commercial or financial information are furnished under a claim that they are proprietary, privileged or confidential, and that disclosure of the trade secrets or commercial or financial information would cause competitive harm to the person or business, and only insofar as the claim directly applies to the records requested.”
4. Insurance information contained within the Responsive Documents is being redacted because it is exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(s) of FOIA, which exempts “[a]ny and all proprietary information and records related to the operation of an intergovernmental risk management association or self-insurance pool or jointly self-administered health and accident cooperative or pool Insurance or self-insurance (including any intergovernmental risk management association or self-insurance pool) claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications.” 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(s). Accordingly, per Attorney Jamie Harrman, all information regarding insurance within the Responsive Document has been redacted.

IV. Right of Review

A person whose request to inspect or copy a public record was treated by the public body as a request for a commercial purpose under Section 3.1 of FOIA may file a request for review with the Public Access Counselor (“PAC”) of the Illinois Attorney General’s Office for the limited purpose of reviewing whether the public body properly determined that the request was made for a commercial purpose. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(b). 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.

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

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

If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ms. Richelle McGuire/HRV Inc.

16-FOIA-193 Bureau Veritas Master Purchase Agreement #P0205

Page 3 of 3

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Hatch".

Sonsere Hatch

Freedom of Information Officer

foia@metrarr.com

FOIA Hotline #312-663-3642

Attachment