



May 24, 2017

VIA E-MAIL

Ms. Ashley Higgins
Landcare and Lawn Maintenance, Inc.
Email: ashley@landcareandlawnmaintenance.com

RE: 17-FOIA-060 Tree Service Contracts

Dear Ms. Higgins:

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 February 24, 2017, we received your request for copies of the tree chipping and trimming contracts for the last three years for the Milwaukee District and the Rock Island Metra Electric District Southwest Service (“**Request**”). Your Request is granted in part and denied in part.

II. Responsive Document

In response to your Request, Metra’s Procurement Department is providing you with a copy of Contract No. B53911, Asplundh Tree Expert Co., dated 09/08/15 through 09/08/19 (“**Responsive Document**”).

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 Thomas Stuebner has determined that the following portions of the Responsive Document are exempt from disclosure under certain provisions of FOIA:

1. Section 7(1)(s) of FOIA authorizes units of government to withhold “[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 Thomas Stuebner, all information regarding insurance within the Responsive Documents have 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.

Sincerely,

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

Freedom of Information Officer
foia@metrarr.com
FOIA Hotline #312-663-3642

Attachment