

Sue F. McCormick, Director
Detroit Water and Sewerage Department
Water Board Building
735 Randolph, Room
701 Detroit, MI 48226

October 26, 2015

Re: Appeal of Kate Levy Partial FOIA Denial

Dear Ms. McCormick:

In September 1, 2015, I submitted the attached FOIA request for information concerning water terminations and disconnections. You denied my requests I-III in part on the ground that it was necessary to exclude street address information of customers because that information was of “a personal nature” that is exempt under MCL 15.243(1) (a). I am writing to appeal and request reversal of that denial for the reasons set out below.

I am appealing because I believe that it is possible to grant my request for street and address information while maintaining the privacy of your customers. In fact, my request specifically asked that you make reasonable redactions in order to provide as much information as possible:

If you determine that portions of a record requested are exempt from disclosure, please separate or redact the exempt material and make the nonexempt material available to me. When separating or redacting material, please provide materials with the most detail possible without revealing the contents of the exempt information. As an example, the address 130 Main Street might be redacted to read 13_ Main Street.

In other words, DWSD may properly respond to my request by providing information in a partially redacted form such as blacking out one or more of the digits of the street addresses. It is well established that such redaction is required under the law to provide as much information as possible without defeating the purpose of the claimed exemption.

Sincerely,

Kate Levy

303-304-9341

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