

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Ethan Book,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2018-0075

Mayor, City of Bridgeport; and  
City of Bridgeport,

Respondents

January 9, 2019

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on May 24 and August 16, 2018, at which times the complainant and the respondents appeared and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found and conclusions of law are reached:

1. The respondents are public agencies within the meaning of §1-200(1), G.S.
2. By letter of complaint filed February 13, 2018, the complainant appealed to this Commission, alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information ("FOI") Act by denying his January 25, 2018 request for certain public records.
3. It is found that the complainant made a January 25, 2018 request for documentation reflecting the "approved authority" for the city to assign certain bundled liens, the public notice of that offering and the price for which the liens were sold or assigned; and for documentation reflecting the retainer agreement between the City of Bridgeport and Attorney Jonathan Klein, and copies of all invoices for services performed pursuant to that agreement.
4. It is found that the respondents provided 60-70% of the requested records by the time of the first hearing in this matter, and the remaining records that were responsive to the request by July 9, 2018.
5. Section 1-200(5), G.S., defines "public records or files" as:  

any recorded data or information relating to the conduct of the public's business prepared, owned, used, received or retained by a public agency, or to which a public agency is entitled to receive a copy by law or contract under section 1-218, whether such data or information be handwritten, typed, tape-recorded, printed, photostated, photographed or recorded by any other method.

6. Section 1-210(a), G.S., provides in relevant part that:

Except as otherwise provided by any federal law or state statute, all records maintained or kept on file by any public agency, whether or not such records are required by any law or by any rule or regulation, shall be public records and every person shall have the right to (1) inspect such records promptly during regular office or business hours . . . (3) receive a copy of such records in accordance with section 1-212.

7. Section 1-212(a), G.S., provides in relevant part that “any person applying in writing shall receive, promptly upon request, a plain, facsimile, electronic or certified copy of any public record.”

8. It is concluded that the requested records are public records within the meaning of §§1-200(5), 1-210(a) and 1-212(a), G.S.

9. It is found that complying with the complainant’s request required that respondents’ counsel meet with him on several occasions in order to understand and clarify his requests, and to perform research in order to comply with his requests.

10. It is found that the respondents provided all records responsive to the complainant’s requests.

11. It is also found that the records were provided promptly under the circumstances of this case.

12. It is therefore concluded that the respondents did not violate the FOI Act as alleged.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above-captioned complaint:

1. The complaint is dismissed.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of January 9, 2019.



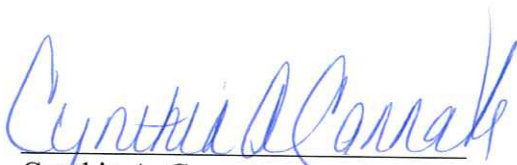
Cynthia A. Cannata  
Acting Clerk of the Commission

PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-180(c), G.S., THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF EACH PARTY AND THE MOST RECENT MAILING ADDRESS, PROVIDED TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION, OF THE PARTIES OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.

THE PARTIES TO THIS CONTESTED CASE ARE:

**ETHAN BOOK**, 144 Coleman Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604

**MAYOR, CITY OF BRIDGEPORT; AND CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**, c/o Attorney Tamara Titre, City of Bridgeport, Office of the City Attorney, 999 Broad Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604



Cynthia A. Cannata  
Acting Clerk of the Commission