

Note added by Michigan Plate Readers. Our message to the Shelby Township Police Department's Records Bureau Manager on both requests (SHP-2026-10-04-A and -B), sent October 22, 2026, 2:42 pm, as a reply on the thread of her estimate email of October 20. Text as sent, with the greeting's first name given by role; the quoted email is published separately. End of note.

Hi [the Records Bureau Manager],

Thank you for the estimate and the link to the Department's Flock transparency portal. I have a few questions on the estimate before I pay the deposit.

1. The statement puts both requests (PD5OCT28/29) on two lines: 240 minutes of search and examination and 120 of redaction. Each request asked for the estimate broken out by its numbered items (MCL 15.234(4)) so that I can narrow. Could you break the six hours out by request and item? I am glad to narrow once I see where the time goes.

2. The labor is charged at the Records Manager's \$45.90 an hour; the statement lists a Records Clerk at \$33.14. The Act limits labor to "the hourly wage of its lowest-paid employee capable" of the work, "regardless of whether that person is available or who actually performs the labor" (MCL 15.234(1)(a) and (b)). Is there a reason the Records Clerk could not do it?

3. Under MCL 15.234(3), search and redaction labor may be charged only where "failure to charge a fee would result in unreasonably high costs to the public body because of the nature of the request in the particular instance, and the public body specifically identifies the nature of these unreasonably high costs." On what basis is it charged here?

Both requests also asked for a public-interest fee waiver or reduction under MCL 15.234(2) because these records are being requested for a research project whose results will be published for the public's benefit at no charge. Can you formally approve or deny the fee waiver request?

For your information, the requests, responses and our correspondence will be published at michiganplatereaders.org, with personal contact details left out.

Thank you,
Chance