



City of Southfield

26000 Evergreen Rd. • P.O. Box 2055 • Southfield, MI 48037-2055 • www.cityofsouthfield.com

October 20, 2026

Chance Ackley-Smith
[REDACTED]

Re: Appeal- Freedom of Information Request #26-838

Dear Chance Ackley-Smith:

The City of Southfield (the City) your communication labeled as an appeal. You state following in the initial paragraph.

“Re: FOIA Request #26-838. Appeal under MCL 15.240a(1)(a) of the fee required by the determination of September 28, 2026

Dear Mr. Zorn:

Thank you for the determination on my fee appeal, which reached me through the portal on September 29. This is an appeal for a reduction of the fee required by that determination: stated as \$889.03 with a \$419.00 deposit and itemized on the amended form as \$839.03 less \$20.00 with "\$409.88 deposit due". It includes an appeal of the deposit amount. The amended itemization charges search and redaction labor that the August itemization did not charge, and the grounds below arise from that itemization. The fee, including the deposit, exceeds the amount permitted under section 4 of the Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.234, and under the City's FOIA Procedures and Guidelines for the reasons in points 1 through 3. Points 4 and 5 concern what the determination must state and point 6 asks for information in aid of this appeal... ..

.....

Your appeal, as you stated, received a determination. However, you have submitted a second appeal related to the fees. The city has already determined that it would reduce the fee and provide the amount. However, you have submitted a second appeal related to the fees.

Mayor
Kenson J. Siver

Council President
Charles Hicks

City Clerk
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City Treasurer
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Ashanti Bland

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Michael "Ari" Mandelbaum

As stated in the appeal response, fee waiver is not the default rule. Also, comparison to other states is not a valid legal argument because each state's FOIA laws in other states may be different. Furthermore, towns and cities in other states are not comparable to a mid-sized metro-Detroit area such as Southfield, Michigan.

As previously stated, in the appeal response, there is only one person designated and capable of accessing Flock information for the Southfield Police Department. The revised total cost is \$839.03 minus \$20.00, for a total of \$819.03. The deposit needed before the search, location and examination of the requested records is \$409.51.

Upon receipt of this deposit, it is estimated at 6-8 weeks - this is the City's good faith estimate due to the nature to this request - labor, search and redaction of information subject to Section 13 of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. Pursuant to Section 4(8) of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act the time frame estimate is nonbinding upon the City of Southfield,

If deposit is not received within 45 days, from the date of the appeal response of September 28, 2026, a new request must be submitted.

For more details and information, copies of the City's FOIA Procedures and Guidelines are available at no charge on the City's website: <https://www.cityofsouthfield.com/freedom-information-act>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frederick E. Zorn Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frederick E. Zorn Jr., CEcD
City Administrator