

Note added by Michigan Plate Readers. This typed copy of the answers to items 5 and 6 of the City's Request for Fee Discount/Waiver form was sent with the appeal of September 30, 2026, together with the form itself, completed by hand and signed. The City attached the blank form to its determination; it is published separately as received. The signed form carries the requester's signature and contact details and is not published. End of note.

Request for Fee Discount/Waiver, FOIA Request #26-838 (City of Southfield): answers to items 5 and 6 Submitted with the appeal of September 30, 2026. Items 1 to 4 (indigency and non-profit discounts) are not claimed.

5. A waiver or discount of the fee for this request is in the public interest because:

The records show how a public body operates and oversees an automated license plate reader system paid for with public funds: which organizations may search the City's cameras, how often the cameras are searched and by whom, the stated reasons, the retention setting, and how the Department audits that use. None of this information is published by the City. The records will be published in full, at no charge, on a public website covering Michigan license plate reader programs, together with the City's own documents and any reply the City chooses to make, alongside identical requests to other Michigan agencies, so that residents, the City Council and reporters can see how the system is used and governed and compare it with other communities. Under MCL 15.234(2), furnishing these records can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public.

6. Searching for or furnishing copies of the public record is primarily benefiting the general public because:

The benefit is the public's. I have no commercial interest in the records; they will not be sold, licensed, or used in any business, and I receive nothing from their publication. The City's own audit memos and its sharing configuration are the only source of information on who searches Southfield's cameras and how that use is checked, and the public cannot obtain it any other way. Publication will inform public understanding of a government operation that the City has not described publicly: the volume and sources of searches of the City's cameras, the organizations with access, and the audit practice. The findings will be provided to the City for review before publication.

Chance Ackley-Smith, September 30, 2026