



12 South Center Street
Bensenville, IL 60106

Office: 630.350.3404
Fax: 630.350.3438
www.bensenville.il.us

VILLAGE BOARD

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Frank Soto

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Village Manager
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March 30, 2016

Mr. Mark Keane
910 West Hillside Drive
Bensenville, Illinois 60106

Re: March 23, 2016 FOIA Request

Dear Mr. Keane:

I am pleased to help you with your March 23, 2016 Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). Your request was received by the Village of Bensenville on March 23, 2016. You requested copies of the items indicated below:

"I'm looking for a copy of Trustee Susan Janowiak's resignation letter from last night's meeting."

After a search of Village files, the following documents are enclosed to fulfill your request:

- 1) Susan Janowiak Resignation Letter Dated March 15, 2016. (2 pg.)

These are all of the documents that can be discovered responsive to your request.

Section 7(1)(b) of FOIA provided that "private information" is exempt from disclosure. "Private information" is defined in FOIA as, "unique identifiers, including a person's social security number, driver's license number, employee identification number, biometric identifiers, personal financial information, passwords or other access codes, medical records, home or personal telephone numbers, and personal email addresses. Private information also includes home address and personal license plates, except as otherwise provided by law or when compiled without possibility of attribution to any person." 5ILCS 140/2(c-5). Consequently, certain unique identifiers have been redacted from the records being provided.

Pursuant to Section 9 of the FOIA, 5 ILCS 140/9, I am required to advise you that I, the undersigned Freedom of Information Officer, reviewed and in consultation with an attorney for the Village, made the foregoing determination to deny a portion of your FOIA Request as indicated. Should you believe that this Response constitutes an improper denial of your request, you may appeal such by filing a request for review within sixty (60) days of the date of this letter with the Public Access Counselor of the Illinois Attorney General's Office, Public Access Bureau, 500 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706; telephone 1-887-299-FOIA; e-mail: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us. You may also have a right of judicial review of the denial under Section 11 of FOIA, 5 ILCS 140/11.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns in connection with this response.

Very truly yours,


Corey Williamsen
Freedom of Information Officer
Village of Bensenville

Susan Janowiak
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

March 15, 2016

Village of Bensenville
12 S. Center Street
Bensenville, Illinois 60106

Attn: Mr. Frank Soto, Village President
and the Board of Trustees

Re: Resignation

Dear President Soto and the Board of Trustees,

The last couple of weeks have been very difficult and distressing for me. I have been thinking carefully about the proper course of action that I should take in the interests of our local Government, my family and my deteriorating health. I am very appreciative for the strong show of support that I have received from many of you while I have battled stage three breast cancer and now with these allegations of Ethics Violations while serving the Village of Bensenville. This support has been incredibly important, but none the less, I have decided that it is right to tender my resignation as a Trustee to the Village of Bensenville. I am resigning for a few reasons.

First of all, I do not see how I can carry on my work as a Trustee while I have colleagues around me, who I respect and appreciate, having to deal with these distractions I have created due to my own ignorance in not understanding what my obligations under the law were. At this important time the Village needs a Board of Trustees that are not distracted by the problems I have brought to the Board. I do regret having to resign because I really gave my heart to this office but I know it's the right thing to do so that the Board may continue to serve the people of Bensenville uninterrupted.

Secondly, while my recent problems were caused by misinformation given to me and ignorance in relying on that information, the public is entitled to expect their elected officials to act with a sense of responsibility as well as accepting responsibility for their actions or inactions. However, it's important that my colleagues know that I never acted with malfeasance. From the day I was

sworn in to serve the people of Bensenville, it was publically known that my husband and I owned Sign Works. I was always proud to be a business owner in our village and my interest in Sign Works was included in my biography on the Village website. I never wanted there to be an appearance of impropriety so I asked other members of the Village management what I should do when my company was doing business with the Village and I always did as instructed and went as far as recusing myself from voting when need be. I now understand that my actions were not in accord with the Rules of Ethics and I'm so deeply troubled by this. But please know that Sign Works always had the people of Bensenville's best interests in mind. When a bid comes in over 20% lower than every other bid it should be recognized that my interest was in saving the Village money and not in the profit to be made. The contract awarded to Sign Works saved taxpayers more than \$20,000.00. For this, I am very proud.

Finally, and most importantly, I have an overriding responsibility to each of you on the Board, people I have come to admire and respect. I have pursued a political career here in Bensenville because of my sense of public duty, but I do not want to put those interests ahead of my health and now the potential distraction it is causing each of you. I do feel blessed to have had the opportunity to work alongside with each of you and I will remain a strong supporter of our Village and of each of you as well.

Very truly yours,

Susan Janowiak

Susan Janowiak

