Dear ISBE FOIA officer:

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.) and your agency’s implementing regulations, I respectfully request access to or a copy of the following documents:

- A record of all payments The Woodlawn Organization and Southwest Youth Services in the last four fiscal years.
- A copy of any contracts with The Woodlawn Organization and Southwest Youth Services, if they exist, for the services provided for those payments.
- A copy of the last application to the department from The Woodlawn Organization and Southwest Youth Services for any grants or enrollment in any program or response to any bid or RFP overseen by the department.
- A record of any stop-payment orders, payment disputes, any audits, or any correspondence related to a request for the return of payments or any demand for payments issued to The Woodlawn Organization and Southwest Youth Services in the last four fiscal years.

As you know, the FOIA requires an agency to reduce or even waive duplication fees where the disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of government. I believe the principal purpose of my request is to access and disseminate information regarding the health, safety, welfare and legal rights of the general public. I plan to use the requested information as the basis of a newspaper article advancing the public interest. Therefore, I respectfully request a waiver of all duplication fees.

I believe that all of the information I have requested is subject to public disclosure pursuant to the FOIA. However, if you decide to withhold all or part of the information requested, please send me a detailed statement of the reasons for this denial along with references to the specific exemptions of the FOIA you are claiming for each withheld document. I expect you to release all legally disclosable portions of the otherwise exempt material.

Because I am making this request as a journalist and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate a response to my request within 5 working days as required by the Act. Please provide the documents by the easiest and quickest means possible. E-mail or fax and electronic presentation is preferred. Also, please provide the documents as they become available and don’t withhold some as the search for others may continue beyond the 5 day requirement.

Sincerely,

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