Nov. 27, 2013

Monique Garcia
Chicago Tribune
435 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Ms. Garcia:

This letter is in response to your request for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on Nov. 14, 2013.

On Nov. 21, our agency requested a five-day extension until Dec. 2.

You have requested the following documents: all invoices and billings submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education by the Vallas Group and its subcontractors; all reports submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education by the Vallas Group and its subcontractors, including but not limited to those relating to the contract outlined in solicitation notice 22024366, including but not limited to quarterly progress reports; all communications, including but not limited to letters, e-mail, fax and phone logs from the Vallas Group and its subcontractors to officials at the Illinois State Board of Education; and any reports made by ISBE regarding the status of the Vallas Group contract, including but not limited to the post-performance contract review, as well as corrections of service to the contract.

The enclosed CD is provided in response to your request.

Please note certain documents that are responsive to this request were identified as exempt pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (m) as they are “communications between a public boy and an attorney or auditor representing the public body that would not be subject to discovery in litigation.” These communications have been withheld. Also, certain records have been identified as “preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated.” Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (f), these materials have been withheld. Additionally, private information, including Social Security numbers, home addresses and telephone numbers, cell phone numbers, dates of birth and signatures, have been redacted pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (b).

If you feel you have been improperly denied your access to public records, an appeal may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General’s Public Access Counselor at 500 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62706 or publicaccess@atg.state.il.us.
If you choose to submit a request for review, you must do so within 60 days after the date of this response letter. The request for review must be in writing, signed by you and include (i) a copy of your FOIA request and (ii) this office’s response. In addition, you have the right to seek judicial review of this response.

If you have questions, please contact Amanda Simhauser at (217) 782-4648 or asimhaus@isbe.net.

Sincerely,

Marcilene Dutton
Deputy General Counsel

Enclosure