OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

KWAME RAOUL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 10, 2026

PUBLIC ACCESS OPINION 26-012
(Requests for Review 2026 PAC 97565)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:
Duty to Respond to FOIA Requests

Ms. Deidre Fischer
5240 North Olcott Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60656

Mr. Vaughn C. Ganiyu
Assistant General Counsel
Chicago Police Department
3510 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60653

Dear Ms. Fischer and Mr. Ganiyu:

This binding opinion is issued by the Attorney General pursuant to section 9.5(f) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 ILCS 140/9.5(f) (West 2025 Supp.)). For the reasons discussed below, this office concludes that the Chicago Police Department (CPD) violated section 3(d) of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/3(d) (West 2025 Supp.)) by failing to comply with, deny in writing in whole or in part, or otherwise appropriately respond to a FOIA request submitted by Ms. Deidre Fischer.

BACKGROUND

On July 2, 2026, Ms. Fischer submitted a FOIA request to CPD seeking:

> [A]ll emails and electronic communications created between January 1, 2026, and March 15, 2026, between James Snaidauf and Meagan Remiasz, including communications where either

> individual is copied, that contain the terms "Fischer," Deidre," or "Diedre."
>
> This request is limited to communications concerning Deidre Fischer's latent print examiner status, mentorship, competency, technical review, remediation, restriction, or removal.[1]

On July 6, 2026, CPD extended its five-business day deadline to respond to Ms. Fischer's request by an additional five business days under section 3(e) of FOIA.[2] On July 17, 2026, CPD requested an additional seven working days to respond to Ms. Fischer.[3] On July 31, 2026, CPD provided an update to Ms. Fischer stating that CPD would complete its response to her request on or before August 7, 2026.[4] On September 3, 2026, Ms. Fischer informed CPD that she had still not received a response to her FOIA request.[5] On September 11, 2026, Ms. Fischer submitted the above-referenced Request for Review alleging that CPD had failed to respond to her July 2, 2026, FOIA request.[6]

On October 9, 2026, the Public Access Bureau e-mailed[7] a copy of the Request for Review to CPD together with a letter[8] asking whether CPD had received and responded to

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[1]FOIA portal message from Chicago Public Safety to Deidre Fischer confirming receipt of Ms. Fischer's FOIA request (July 2, 2026).

[2]Letter from P. Little, [Chicago Police Department Information Media Retrieval Specialist], to Deidre Fischer (July 6, 2026).

[3]FOIA portal message from P. Little, [Chicago Police Department Information Media Retrieval Specialist], to [Deidre] Fischer (July 17, 2026).

[4]FOIA portal message from P. Little, [Chicago Police Department Information Media Retrieval Specialist], to [Deidre] Fischer (July 31, 2026).

[5]FOIA portal message from Deidre Fischer to FOIA Officer, [Chicago Police Department] (September 3, 2026).

[6]E-mail from Deidre Fischer to Public Access [Bureau, Office of the Attorney General] (September 11, 2026).

[7]E-mail from Michael G. Malik, Assistant Attorney General, Public Access Bureau, Office of the Illinois Attorney General, to [Vaughn] Ganiyu, [Assistant General Counsel, Chicago Police Department] (October 9, 2026).

[8]Letter from Michael G. Malik, Assistant Attorney General, Public Access Bureau, Office of the Attorney General, to Vaughn C. Ganiyu, Assistant General Counsel, Chicago Police Department (October 9, 2026), at 1.

Ms. Fischer's FOIA request.[9] The October 9, 2026, letter also requested that if CPD had received but not responded to Ms. Fischer's request, it do so and provide a copy of its response to this office.[10] CPD did not respond to the inquiry letter. On October 22, 2026, Ms. Fisher informed the Public Access Bureau that CPD still had not responded to her FOIA request.[11] On October 22, 2026, the Public Access Bureau e-mailed CPD an additional copy of the Request for Review and this office's October 9, 2026, letter.[12]

As of the date of the issuance of this binding opinion, this office has not received any response from CPD, nor has it received any indication that CPD has responded to Ms. Fischer's July 2, 2026, FOIA request.

ANALYSIS

"It is a fundamental obligation of government to operate openly and provide public records as expediently and efficiently as possible in compliance with [FOIA]." 5 ILCS 140/1 (West 2024). Under section 1.2 of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/1.2 (West 2024)), "[a]ll records in the custody or possession of a public body are presumed to be open to inspection or copying." Section 3(a) of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/3(a) (West 2025 Supp.)) provides that "[e]ach public body shall make available to any person for inspection or copying all public records, except as otherwise provided in Sections 7 and 8.5 of this Act." Section 3(d) of FOIA further provides:

> Each public body shall, promptly, either **comply with or deny a request for public records within 5 business days after its receipt of the request, unless the time for response is properly extended under subsection (e) of this Section**. Denial shall be in writing as provided in Section 9 of this Act. Failure to comply with a written request, extend the time for response, or deny a request within 5 business days after its receipt shall be considered a denial of the request. A public body that fails to respond to a request within the requisite periods in this Section but

[9]The letter also asked CPD to address another Request for Review (2026 PAC 97568) concerning a June 4, 2026, FOIA request by Ms. Fischer. That FOIA request is not at issue in this matter.

[10]Letter from Michael G. Malik, Assistant Attorney General, Public Access Bureau, Office of the Attorney General, to Vaughn C. Ganiyu, Assistant General Counsel, Chicago Police Department (October 9, 2026) at 1.

[11]E-mail from Deidre Fischer to [Michael G. Malik, Assistant Attorney General, Public Access Bureau, Office of the Attorney General] (October 22, 2026).

[12]E-mail from Michael G. Malik, Assistant Attorney General, Public Access Bureau, Office of the Illinois Attorney General, to [Vaughn] Ganiyu, [Assistant General Counsel, Chicago Police Department] (October 22, 2026).

> thereafter provides the requester with copies of the requested public records may not impose a fee for such copies. A public body that fails to respond to a request received may not treat the request as unduly burdensome under subsection (g). (Emphasis added.)

Section 3(e) of FOIA permits a public body to extend its response time by five business days for any of seven enumerated reasons.

CPD received Ms. Fischer's request on July 2, 2026, properly extended its time for responding to the request by five business days pursuant to section 3(e) of FOIA, and later notified Ms. Fischer that it would complete its response to the request by August 7, 2026. It is undisputed that CPD did not subsequently comply with the request or deny the request in writing in whole or in part. Accordingly, CPD's failure to comply with the requisite response procedures violated section 3(d) of FOIA.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

After full examination and giving due consideration to the information submitted, the Public Access Counselor's review, and the applicable law, the Attorney General finds that:

1) On July 2, 2026, Ms. Deidre Fischer submitted a FOIA request to the Chicago Police Department seeking copies of certain electronic communications concerning her.

2) On July 6, 2026, CPD extended its deadline to respond to the request by five business days pursuant to section 3(e) of FOIA.

3) On September 11, 2026, Ms. Fischer submitted the above-referenced Request for Review to the Public Access Bureau alleging that CPD had not responded to the request. The Request for Review was timely filed and otherwise complies with the requirements of section 9.5(a) of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/9.5(a) (West 2025 Supp.)). Accordingly, the Attorney General may properly issue a binding opinion with respect to this matter.

4) On October 9, 2026, the Public Access Bureau sent a copy of the Request for Review to CPD along with a letter asking whether CPD had received and responded to Ms. Fischer's FOIA request; if CPD had received but not responded to Ms. Fischer's request, this office's letter requested that it do so and provide a copy of its response to this office.

5) On October 22, 2026, Ms. Fischer informed the Public Access Bureau that she still had not received a response to her FOIA request from CPD.

6) On October 22, 2026, the Public Access Bureau sent CPD an additional copy of the Request for Review and this office's October 9, 2026, letter.

7) As of the date of the issuance of this binding opinion, this office has received no information indicating that CPD has responded to Ms. Fischer's July 2, 2026, FOIA request.

Therefore, it is the opinion of the Attorney General that CPD has violated section 3(d) of FOIA by failing, within the statutory time period for responding to Ms. Fischer's July 2, 2026, request, to provide copies of the requested records or deny the request in writing in whole or in part. Accordingly, CPD is hereby directed to take immediate and appropriate action to comply with this opinion by providing Ms. Fischer with copies of all records responsive to her July 2, 2026, FOIA, request, subject only to permissible redactions, if any, under section 7 of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/7 (West 2025 Supp.)).[13] If CPD determines that any portion of the responsive records is exempt from disclosure under section 7, it is directed to issue a written denial that fully complies with the requirements of section 9(a) of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/9(a) (West 2024)).

This opinion shall be considered a final decision of an administrative agency for the purposes of administrative review under the Administrative Review Law. 735 ILCS 5/3-101 *et seq*. (West 2024). An aggrieved party may obtain judicial review of the decision by filing a complaint for administrative review with the Circuit Court of Cook County or Sangamon County within 35 days of the date of this decision naming the Attorney General of Illinois and Ms. Deidre Fischer as defendants. *See* 5 ILCS 140/11.5 (West 2024)

Very truly yours,

KWAME RAOUL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By:

R. Douglas Rees
Chief Deputy Attorney General

[13]Because CPD did not comply with the statutory requirements for responding to Ms. Fischer's FOIA request, the Village is precluded from treating the request as unduly burdensome or imposing copying fees for the responsive records. 5 ILCS 140/3(d) (West 2025 Supp.).

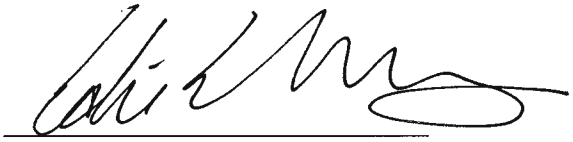
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Edie Steinberg, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Public Access Bureau, hereby certifies that she has served a copy of the foregoing Binding Opinion (Public Access Opinion 26-012) upon:

Ms. Deidre Fischer
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Chicago, Illinois 60656
daffyfish@sbcglobal.net

Mr. Vaughn C. Ganiyu
Assistant General Counsel
Chicago Police Department
3510 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60653
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by causing a true copy thereof to be sent electronically to the addresses as listed above and by causing to be mailed a true copy thereof in correctly addressed, prepaid envelopes to be deposited in the United States mail at Chicago, Illinois on November 10, 2026.



Edie Steinberg
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