



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

KWAME RAOUL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 6, 2024

Via electronic mail

Mr. Kirk Allen
Edgar County Watchdogs
P.O. Box 593
Kansas, Illinois 61933
Kirk@illinoisleaks.com

Via electronic mail

The Honorable Ruth A. Woolery
Shelby County State's Attorney
Shelby County State's Attorney's Office
301 East Main Street
Shelbyville, Illinois 62565
statesattorney@shelbycounty-il.gov

RE: FOIA Request for Review – 2024 PAC 82918

Dear Mr. Allen and Ms. Woolery:

This letter is issued pursuant to section 9.5(g) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).¹ For the reasons explained below, the Public Access Bureau will take no further action with respect to the above-referenced Request for Review.

On September 5, 2024, Mr. Kirk Allen, on behalf of Edgar County Watchdogs, submitted the above-referenced Request for Review contesting the partial denial by the Shelby County State's Attorney's Office (State's Attorney's Office) to his FOIA request submitted on July 10, 2024. On November 5, 2024, Mr. Allen informed the Public Access Bureau that he had filed a FOIA lawsuit challenging the State's Attorney's Office's response to the same request.

¹5 ILCS 140/9.5(g) (West 2023 Supp.).

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Section 9.5(g) of FOIA provides:

If the requester files suit under Section 11 with respect to the same denial that is the subject of a pending request for review, the requester shall notify the Public Access Counselor, and the Public Access Counselor shall take no further action with respect to the request for review and shall so notify the public body.

Because Mr. Allen has filed suit under section 11 of FOIA,² section 9.5(g) of FOIA precludes the Public Access Counselor from taking further action with respect to this matter.

This letter serves to close this file. Please contact me at katherine.goldsmith@ilag.gov if you have questions.

Very truly yours,



KATIE GOLDSMITH
Assistant Attorney General
Public Access Bureau

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²5 ILCS 140/11 (West 2022).