



August 27, 2015

Chicago Office of Budget and Management
OBM FOIA Officer
121 N. LaSalle Street, #604
Chicago, IL 60602

[Transmitted via email to OBMfoia@cityofchicago.org]

We submitted a FOIA request on July 30, 2015 for information relating to Chicago's Tax Increment Financing surplus funds, that is, funds sitting in TIF accounts at the end of 2013. Your department responded on August 13, 2015.

The July 30 request stated:

This is a FOIA request. Please send me PDF copies of the following:

1. All records relied upon or reviewed in making the following statement in the City of Chicago's 2014 Annual Financial Analysis (p. 78): "The City's TIFs had an aggregate balance of \$1.72 billion at the close of 2013, decreasing to \$1.69 billion in active TIFs at the start of 2014. However, \$1.67 billion of this balance is reserved for payments due in connection with committed projects, including a portion that is reserved to fund project costs in TIF districts where revenues are declining, in the event that annual revenues are insufficient to pay future obligations."
2. All records documenting any obligations reflected in the \$1.67 billion figure in the 2014 AFA.
3. All records documenting any funds currently reserved for payments due in connection with committed projects, including a portion that is reserved to fund project costs in TIF districts where revenues are declining, in the event that annual revenues are insufficient to pay future obligations.

For number 1, I do not believe a narrowing of my request is appropriate. For number 2 and number 3, you may limit your response to the operative legal documents (contracts, loan agreements, etc.) and records reflecting any final decisions of the city. I do not require, for example, every email discussing that subject matter. If necessary to ensure a response within the deadlines, please consider this to be a new request as to numbers 2 and 3.

Please communicate with me by email. Because I have sought PDFs, there should not be any copy charges. If you disagree, I ask for a fee waiver because I intend to disseminate this information as part of a study of the City's TIF program.

Thank you for your kind assistance in this matter.

Tom Tresser
Co-Founder, CivicLab Chicago
Lead Illuminator, The TIF Illumination Project