



OFFICE OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT  
CITY OF CHICAGO

August 13, 2015

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

Via email:

Mr. Tresser:

On behalf of the City of Chicago Office of Budget and Management ("OBM"), I am responding to your Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request, which was received on July 30, 2015, wherein you seek:

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.

The FOIA provides in 5 ILCS 140/3(g) that requests for all records falling within a category shall be complied with unless compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information.

**Your request is unduly burdensome as currently written.** I am requesting clarification as to what you seek when you use the phrase "all records". Because of the broadness of the phrasing, the language could include a myriad of documents that could be exempt from disclosure. Also, without further clarification, a massive search would be required to look for records that fall under the umbrella of "all records".

While your request is burdensome as written, OBM is providing the enclosed document as we interpret this to be responsive to your requests.



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This document details encumbrances, current obligations and other data that OBM relied upon to help create the TIF section of the 2014 Annual Financial Analysis ("AFA"). This is the document that established the \$1.67 billion figure reserved for payments as of the publication of the AFA. Please note, the figures in the attached were relied upon for the 2014 AFA, but certain figures may have been revised in preparation for the public release of TIF data in the fall.

Additionally, the below links provide data on all TIF districts, including fund balances for each TIF district as of September 2014 as well as a description and amounts for current obligations, revenue, transfers, and proposed projects and transfers for each individual TIF district. The information contained in these two publicly available documents provides additional data beyond the attached document that assisted in the development of the 2014 AFA.

[http://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/obm/general/TIF\\_District\\_Programming\\_2014-2018.pdf](http://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/obm/general/TIF_District_Programming_2014-2018.pdf)

<https://data.cityofchicago.org/Community-Economic-Development/TIF-District-Programming-2014-2018/ycd5-punx>

If you agree to narrow your request, you must submit a revised written request to my attention. OBM will take no further action or send you any further correspondence unless and until your current request is narrowed in writing. If we do not receive your narrowed request within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date of this letter, your current request will be denied.

In the event that we do not receive a narrowed request and your current FOIA request is therefore denied, you will have a right of review by the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor, who can be contacted at 500 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62706 or by telephone at (217) 558-0486. You may also seek judicial review of a denial under 5 ILCS 140/11 of FOIA.

Sincerely,

Molly Poppe  
FOIA Officer

City of Chicago Office of Budget and Management