



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

Department of Police • City of Chicago
3510 S. Michigan Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60653

Larry Snelling
Superintendent of Police

March 6, 2025

Via Email
tmn6881@gmail.com

Re: NOTICE OF RESPONSE TO FOIA REQUEST
FOIA FILE NO.: P026834

Dear Terrence Newsome:

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) is in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. In it, you request:

Please provide me a list of CPD incident reports, arrests, detail reports, and mugshots of anyone who allegedly has ties to the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua or TDA. They go by the name "Tred de Aragua" or "TDA." Please run a report starting February 1st, 2023, through February 15th, 2025. I'm trying to identify how many arrests in the city of Chicago may have been associated with the Tren de Aragua gang.

CPD reviewed your request and is providing you with the responsive records within the parameters of your request. Please be advised that the Department has redacted certain information, as explained below.

Section 7(1)(b) exempts from disclosure "[p]rivate information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law or a court order." 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b). The FOIA, in 5 ILCS 140/2(c-5), defines "private information" as follows:

"'Private information' means unique identifiers, including a person's social security number, driver's license number, employee identification number, biometric identifiers, personal financial information, passwords or other access codes, medical records, home or personal telephone numbers, and personal email addresses. Private information also includes home address and personal license plates, except as otherwise provided by law or when compiled without possibility of attribution to any person."

Therefore, personal addresses, personal telephone numbers, personal license plate numbers, driver's license numbers, vehicle identification numbers, social security numbers, internal record numbers, SID numbers, FBI numbers, signatures, medical information, and employee user codes/numbers are exempt and were properly redacted pursuant to Section 7(1)(b).

In addition, dates of birth, medical information, victim names and identifying information, and other third party names and identifying information of persons such as friends, relatives, neighbors, and suspects who were never arrested or charged were also redacted as the public interest is not great while the privacy interests are considerable; therefore, this information is exempt and protected from disclosure pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c) of FOIA. Section 7(1)(c) exempts from inspection and copying the following:

“[P]ersonal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy... ‘Unwarranted invasion of personal privacy’ means the disclosure of information is that highly personal or objectionable to reasonable person and in which the subject’s right to privacy outweighs any legitimate public interest in obtaining the information.” Id.

All Department "queries" performed via the Illinois Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS) are exempt from disclosure. LEADS is a statewide computerized data network that is designed to provide justice-related information to authorized criminal justice agencies. Per 20 Ill. Adm. Code 1240.80(d), "LEADS data shall not be disseminated to any individual or organization that is not legally authorized to have access to the information." Illinois courts have recently held that this administrative regulation specifically prohibits a public body from "disclosing information regarding inquiries performed by LEADS users" via FOIA and that "the public is not entitled to view or possesses data that is transmitted through, received through, or stored in LEADS."

Please be advised that some records have been withheld in their entirety. LEADS print outs and information regarding inquiries performed by LEADS users are protected from disclosure pursuant to §7(1)(a) of the Illinois FOIA Statute that exempts from release "information specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations implementing federal or State law."

You have the right to have a denial reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706, (877) 299-3642. You also have the right to seek judicial review by filing a lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court.

Sincerely,

R Earnshaw
Freedom of Information Officer
Chicago Police Department
Attention Freedom of Information
Legal Affairs Unit
3510 S. Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60653