



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

Hall of Records, Room 535, Newark, New Jersey 07102
973.621.5003 --- 973.621.4599 (Fax)

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive

Courtney M. Gaccione
Essex County Counsel

August 14, 2019
Jose Valverde
jose.lamas.valverde@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Valverde,

The County of Essex received your Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request on 8/8/2019. The official Records Custodian, Matthew Dooley, received your OPRA request on 8/8/2019. As such, the seven (7) business day deadline to respond to your request is 8/19/2019. This response to your request is being provided to you on the 4th business day after the custodian's receipt of said request.

There are no records responsive to your OPRA request. The Essex County Parks Department has provided the explanation below:

No land purchases have been involved in either the creation of the zoo in 1963, nor any expansions of it since. The first suggestions of a zoological park as part of the Essex County Park System were around 100 years ago, with the thought that Weequahic Park would be the ideal location. Then, in the 1950s, proposals were to build an ice skating rink and zoo in South Mountain Reservation northwest of the intersection of Cherry Lane and South Orange Avenue. It was finally determined to build the arena, and later a children's zoo, in the current location south of Northfield Avenue. This location had been the Hickory Springs picnic area and the tracts there were acquired between 1904 and 1914 as part of the formation of South Mountain Reservation.

If your request for access to a government record has been denied or unfiled within the seven (7) business days required by law, you have a right to challenge the decision by the [insert name of agency] to deny access. At your option, you may either institute a proceeding in the Superior Court of New Jersey or file a complaint with the Government Records Council (GRC) by completing the Denial of Access Complaint Form. You may contact the GRC by toll-free telephone at 866-850-0511, by mail at P.O. Box 819, Trenton, NJ, 08625, by e-mail at grc@dca.state.nj.us, or at their web site at www.state.nj.us/grc. The GRC can also answer other questions about the law. All questions regarding complaints filed in Superior Court should be directed to the Court Clerk in your County.

Sincerely,

Matthew Dooley
County of Essex, OPRA Office
oprarequests@counsel.essexcountynj.org

Putting Essex County First

ESSEX COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER