



2911 Dorr Road
Brighton, MI 48116
810.227.5225
810.227.3420 fax
genoa.org

May 8, 2025

Michael Edmund
P.O. Box 732
Brighton, MI 48116

Re: Response to FOIA Request 2025-16

Mr. Edmund,

I am in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated April 28, 2025 and received by my office on May 2, 2025. Your FOIA request has been assigned number 2025-16. Your request for materials under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act is granted in part and denied in part. Your request for records providing 1.) "documentation the Genoa Charter Township is still enforcing the FBI Bulletin and did instruct the township departments to view sovereign citizens as a threat to the democracy" and 2.) "documentation of any forms, instructions, mandates, or orders issued from the Genoa Charter Township Board to the attorney of record that represents Genoa Charter Township, its officials and employees in all of the departments contained within Genoa Charter Township, on how to engage with sovereign citizens" is denied because the records do not exist. Additionally, the portions of the records responsive to item #3 which contain materials subject to attorney client privilege are denied as provided by MCL 15.243(1)(g).

Fulfillment of your request involves a 27-month search, review, selection and photocopy of over a hundred records. Additionally, due to the nature of your request, employee labor for the redaction of attorney-client privileged information from the selected records will be required. For this reason, the Township will require a deposit to respond. Due to a previous FOIA fee which was not paid from September 2024 (FOIA file 2024-27), and in accordance with MCL 15.234(11) the amount of the deposit shall be 100% of the fee. The deposit must be received before the requested records are searched for, reviewed, and prepared. Please see the attached detailed cost itemization form which estimates the cost of labor to locate, redact, copy, and mail the records. Please note that the attached is an estimate of cost and additional costs may be required if additional time or resources are necessary to fulfill your request. The amount of the required deposit is \$685.51. Payment can be made via cash or check addressed to Genoa Charter Township, 2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, Michigan 48116. The records responsive to these items will be mailed to the address indicated on your request once payment in full has been received. The estimated time frame to produce the documents after we receive the deposit is 14 business days.

For the denial items which do not exist or are exempt from disclosure as a public record, attached please find the formal Notice of Denial. As a result of the denial of your request, you have the right pursuant to MCL 15.240, Section 10 to do the following:

SUPERVISOR

Kevin Spicher

CLERK

Janene Deaton

TREASURER

Robin L. Hunt

TRUSTEES

Rick Soucy

Bill Reiber

Candie Hovarter

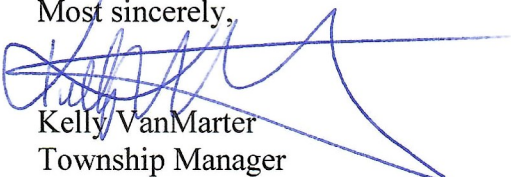
Todd Walker

MANAGER

Kelly VanMarter

- (1) Submit to the head of the public body a written appeal that specifically states the word "appeal" and identifies the reason or reasons for reversal of the disclosure denial.
- (2) Seek judicial review of the denial under section 10 of the Act, MCL 15.240, which states:
 - (1)(b) Commence a civil action in the circuit court, or if the decision of a state public body is at issue, the court of claims, to compel the public body's disclosure of the public records within 180 days after a public body's final determination to deny a request.
- (4) In an action commenced under subsection (1)(b), a court that determines a public record is not exempt from disclosure shall order the public body to cease withholding or to produce all or a portion of a public record wrongfully withheld, regardless of the location of the public record. Venue for an action against a local public body is proper in the circuit court for the county in which the public record or an office of the public body is located has venue over the action. The court shall determine the matter de novo and the burden is on the public body to sustain its denial. The court, on its own motion, may view the public record in controversy in private before reaching a decision. Failure to comply with an order of the court may be punished as contempt of court.
- (5) An action commenced under this section and an appeal from an action commenced under this section shall be assigned for hearing and trial or for argument at the earliest practicable date and expedited in every way.
- (6) If a person asserting the right to inspect, copy, or receive a copy of all or a portion of a public record prevails in an action commenced under this section, the court shall award reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements. If the person or public body prevails in part, the court may, in its discretion, award all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements. The award shall be assessed against the public body liable for damages under subsection (7).
- (7) If the court determines in an action commenced under this section that the public body has arbitrarily and capriciously violated this act by refusal or delay in disclosing or providing copies of a public record, the court shall order the public body to pay a civil fine of \$1,000.00, which shall be deposited into the general fund of the state treasury. The court shall award, in addition to any actual or compensatory damages, punitive damages in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the person seeking the right to inspect or receive a copy of a public record. The damages shall not be assessed against an individual, but shall be assessed against the next succeeding public body that is not an individual and that kept or maintained the public record as part of its public function.

Most sincerely,



Kelly VanMarter
Township Manager

Township: Keep original and provide copy of both sides, along with Public Summary, to requestor at no charge.

Genoa Township, Livingston County
2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116
Phone: 810-227-5225

Denial Form

Notice of Denial of FOIA Request
Michigan Freedom of Information Act, Public Act 442 of 1976, MCL 15.231, et seq.

Request No.: 2025-16 Date Received: May 2, 2025
Date of This Notice: May 8, 2025
(Please Print or Type)

Check if received via: ☐ Email ☐ Fax ☐ Other Electronic Method
Date delivered to junk/spam folder: _____
Date discovered in junk/spam folder: _____

Name	Michael Edmund	Phone	
Firm/Organization		Fax	
Street	P.O. Box 732	Email	gasdept@att.net
City	Brighton	State	MI Zip 48116

Request for: ☐ Copy ☒ Certified copy ☐ Record inspection ☐ Subscription to record issued on regular basis

Delivery Method: ☐ Will pick up ☐ Will make own copies onsite ☒ Mail to address above ☐ Email to address above
☐ Deliver on digital media provided by the township: _____

Record(s) You Requested: (Listed here or see attached copy of original request) See Items 1 & 2 on the attached copy of the original request.

☐ All OR ☒ Part of your request for records has been denied. Please refer to this form for an explanation. If you have any questions regarding this denial, contact Kelly VanMarter at kelly@genoa.org or 810-227-5225

Reason for Denial:

☐ 1. Exempt from Disclosure: This item is exempt from disclosure under FOIA Section 13, Subsection _____ (insert number), because: _____

☒ 2. Record Does Not Exist: This item does not exist under the name provided in your request or by another name reasonably known to the township. A certificate that the public record does not exist under the name given is attached. If you believe this record does exist, provide a description that will enable us to locate the record: _____

☐ 3. Redaction: A portion of the requested record had to be separated or deleted (redacted) as it is exempt under FOIA Section 13, Subsection _____ (insert number), because: _____

A brief description of the information that had to be separated or deleted: _____

Notice of Requestor's Right to Seek Judicial Review

You are entitled under Section 10 of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.240, to appeal this denial to the township board or to commence an action in the Circuit Court to compel disclosure of the requested records if you believe they were wrongfully withheld from disclosure. If, after judicial review, the court determines that the township has not complied with MCL 15.235 in making this denial and orders disclosure of all or a portion of a public record, you have the right to receive attorneys' fees and damages as provided in MCL 15.240. (See back of this form for additional information on your rights.)

Signature of FOIA Coordinator: _____

Date: 5/8/25

(Created by Michigan Townships Association, April 2015)

**Genoa Charter Township, Livingston County
2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116
Phone: (810) 227-5225**

Copies of the Township's FOIA procedures and guidelines, public summary, and forms are available on the Township website at www.genoa.org. Copies of these documents also are available free of charge at the Township Hall.

Certificate of Absence of Public Record

Michigan Freedom of Information Act, Public Act 442 of 1976, as amended; MCL 15.231, et seq.

The undersigned hereby certifies:

Public Record(s) Requested:

1. Please provide documentation the Genoa Charter Township is still enforcing this FBI bulletin, and did instruct the township departments to view "sovereign citizens" as a threat to the democracy.
2. Please provide documentation of any forms, instructions, mandates, or orders issued from the Genoa Charter Township Board to the attorney of record that represents Genoa Charter Township, its officials and employees in all of the departments contained within Genoa Charter Township, on how to engage with "sovereign citizens".

The public record described in the FOIA request dated April 28, 2025 and received on May 2, 2025 either does not exist under the name given by the requestor or by another name reasonably known to the Township.

Signature of FOIA Coordinator or Designee:

Date: 05/08/25



Township: Keep original and provide copy of both sides, along with Public Summary, to requestor at no charge.

Genoa Township, Livingston County
2911 Dorr Road, Brighton, MI 48116
Phone: 810-227-5225

Denial Form

Notice of Denial of FOIA Request

Michigan Freedom of Information Act, Public Act 442 of 1976, MCL 15.231, et seq.

Request No.: 2025-16 Date Received: May 2, 2025
Date of This Notice: May 8, 2025
(Please Print or Type)

Check if received via: ☐ Email ☐ Fax ☐ Other Electronic Method
Date delivered to junk/spam folder: _____
Date discovered in junk/spam folder: _____

Name	Michael Edmund	Phone	
Firm/Organization		Fax	
Street	P.O. Box 732	Email	gasdept@att.net
City	Brighton	State	MI Zip 48116

Request for: ☐ Copy ☒ Certified copy ☐ Record inspection ☐ Subscription to record issued on regular basis

Delivery Method: ☐ Will pick up ☐ Will make own copies onsite ☒ Mail to address above ☐ Email to address above
☐ Deliver on digital media provided by the township: _____

Record(s) You Requested: (Listed here or see attached copy of original request) See Item 3 on the attached copy of the original request.

☐ All OR ☒ Part of your request for records has been denied. Please refer to this form for an explanation. If you have any questions regarding this denial, contact Kelly VanMarter at kelly@genoa.org or 810-227-5225

Reason for Denial:

☐ 1. Exempt from Disclosure: This item is exempt from disclosure under FOIA Section 13, Subsection _____ (insert number), because: _____

☐ 2. Record Does Not Exist: This item does not exist under the name provided in your request or by another name reasonably known to the township. A certificate that the public record does not exist under the name given is attached. If you believe this record does exist, provide a description that will enable us to locate the record: _____

☒ 3. Redaction: A portion of the requested record had to be separated or deleted (redacted) as it is exempt under FOIA Section 13, Subsection (1)(g) (insert number), because: the information or records requested contain information that is subject to attorney-client privilege.

A brief description of the information that had to be separated or deleted: privileged information contained within legal invoices.

Notice of Requestor's Right to Seek Judicial Review

You are entitled under Section 10 of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.240, to appeal this denial to the township board or to commence an action in the Circuit Court to compel disclosure of the requested records if you believe they were wrongfully withheld from disclosure. If, after judicial review, the court determines that the township has not complied with MCL 15.235 in making this denial and orders disclosure of all or a portion of a public record, you have the right to receive attorneys' fees and damages as provided in MCL 15.240. (See back of this form for additional information on your rights.)

Signature of FOIA Coordinator: 

Date: 5/8/25

(Created by Michigan Townships Association, April 2015)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST LETTER

Genoa Charter Township
Attn: FOIA Coordinator
2911 Dorr Road
Brighton, Michigan 48116

April 28, 2025

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

To: the FOIA coordinator described in MCL 15.236.

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, Act 442 of 1976, Section 15.231.

I, Michael-Edmund; (Mike); request a full disclosure and release of all records and/or data contained within your department and/or agency, and that a copy of the following requested documents be provided to me as they relate to the following, but not limited to: Genoa Charter Township rules, policies, guidelines, and any other administrative rules or laws created through the use of the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969, or any other external sources of information related to the requested documents and information listed below:

In September of 2011, the FBI issued a bulletin entitled; Sovereign Citizens, A Growing Domestic Threat to Law Enforcement, by the FBI's Counterterrorism Analysis Section, Vol 80, No. 9, at pg. 20-24, whereas, the FBI states that "sovereign citizens" are an extremist or terrorist movement engaged in illegal activities.

1. Please provide documentation the Genoa Charter Township is still enforcing this FBI bulletin, and did instruct the township departments to view "sovereign citizens" as a threat to the democracy.
2. Please provide documentation of any forms, instructions, mandates, or orders issued from the Genoa Charter Township Board to the attorney of record that represents Genoa Charter Township, its officials and employees in all of the departments contained within Genoa Charter Township, on how to engage with "sovereign citizens".
3. Please provide the names of all law firms and attorneys that represent Genoa Charter Township Board, department officials, and employees, as of January 1, 2023.

All requested documents are to be certified according to MCL 15.233(6).

If the information, records, and/or data requested are placed, filed, secured and or held in a separate, different and or distinct file by or under another name, number or identifier and/or

identification(s) listed above, I authorize your Department and/or Agency to open and/or access that file for all information, records and/or data requested herein.

In order to determine the fees associated with this request for documents, I request a waiver of all fees for this request because disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest and it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and your department/agency and is not primarily in my commercial interest.

All requested documents are to be sent, to the address listed below, by U.S. Postal Service within 5 business days according to MCL 15.235(2), which states in part; Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the person making the request, a public body shall, subject to subsection (10), respond to a request for a public record within 5 business days after the public body receives the request.

In the event that I do not receive the response in the specified time provided by statute, I will then be forced to pursue other remedy; Public Citizen v. F.T.C. 869 F. 2d 1541 (1989); Blazy v. Tent, 194 F. 3d 90 (1999); GMRI Inc. v. E.E.O.C.; 149 F. 3d 449 (1998).

Should your department/agency, in an attempt to avoid complying with this FOIA request, remain silent, then it will be understood that your silence is acquiescent and demonstrates an act of fraud by your department/agency.

If your office has any questions regarding the requested documents, you can send all inquiries to me at gasdept@att.net.



Michael-Edmund.

P.O. Box 732

Brighton, Michigan [48116]

UCC 3-402(b)(1)