

# R000673-091820 - City Public Records Request

## Message History (12)

← On 12/8/2020 12:33:20 PM, Nathaniel Story wrote:

This is perfect.

Thank you!  
Nathan

✉ On 12/8/2020 12:18:36 PM, City of Boston wrote:

CC: [audrey.coulter@boston.gov](mailto:audrey.coulter@boston.gov); [samantha.ormsby@boston.gov](mailto:samantha.ormsby@boston.gov); [johnt.boyle@pd.boston.gov](mailto:johnt.boyle@pd.boston.gov)  
**Subject:** City of Boston Public Records Office City Public Records Request :: R000673-091820  
**Body:**



*City of Boston*  
*Mayor Martin J. Walsh*  
*Public Records*

12/07/2020

RE: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST of September 18, 2020., Reference # R000673-091820

Dear Nathaniel:

The City of Boston (City) has received your request for public records. This response applies only to records that exist and are in the custody of the City. See *A Guide to the Massachusetts Public Records Law*, p. 32, n.115. It is expected that a custodian of records must use her superior knowledge of her records with respect to responses to public records requests. 950 CMR 32.04(5). Specifically, you stated:

*I request records of all the Public Record Requests in the [bostonma.govqa.us](http://bostonma.govqa.us) portal (City of Boston Public Records Center), going as far back as records exist.*

*Please include all fields present in each record including but not limited to:*

*Reference No*

*Status*

*Balance Due*

*Payments*

*Department*

*Describe the Record(s) Requested*

*Preferred Method to Receive Records*

*Thanks!*

*Nathan*

We have reviewed our files and have located records that correspond to your request. These records have been released to the [Public Records Center](#). Click the link below to login to the Records Center and retrieve the requested records.

[City Public Records Request - R000673-091820](#)

Per our prior communications, I provide with this letter two (2) records. One record includes a log of requests made to the City of Boston from mid-2020, the time it began using the GovQA process to track public records requests.

Please note that portions of the narrative from the City's log were redacted to omit intimate details regarding specifically identified

persons. Such information includes social security numbers and information regarding the identification of minor children. The public interest in disclosure does not outweigh the privacy interest, and such information is not readily available from any other public source. G. L. c. 4, § 7 (26) (c).

The second document details requests made to the Boston Police Department dating back to when it began using GovQA. Please note that this document does not include a column for a description of the record desired. To provide the description of record requested a review must be conducted. This field is likely to contain information associated with allegations of sexual assault or domestic violence. Such information is exempt by statute. G. L. c. 4, § 7 (26) (a); G. L. c. 41, § 97D. In the interests of transparency this document is provided without that column, as it would take many hours to review and redact this information. If you seek information regarding a specific request or requests from this document please let me know.

You may appeal this response to the Supervisor of Records in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. G. L. c. 66, § 10A (c); G. L. c. 66, § 10(b)(ix); 950 CMR 32.08; 950 CMR 32.08(1)(h) (in petitioning the Supervisor, the requester shall provide a copy of such petition to the records access officer associated with such petition). You may also appeal to the Superior Court. 950 CMR 32.06(3)(c).

Very truly yours,



Shawn A. Williams, Esq.  
Director of Public Records  
Records Access Officer

← On 12/7/2020 4:14:31 PM, Nathaniel Story wrote:

Hello,  
Following up again.

Are there any records relevant to this request that can be released now?

Nathan

← On 11/24/2020 12:31:56 PM, Nathaniel Story wrote:

Hello,  
What is the status of a response to this request?

Nathan

← On 11/17/2020 11:53:13 AM, Nathaniel Story wrote:

Hello, sorry to nag again. What is the status of this request?

✉ On 10/23/2020 12:59:10 PM, City of Boston wrote:

**Subject:** City of Boston Public Records Office City Public Records Request :: R000673-091820

**Body:**



*City of Boston*  
*Mayor Martin J. Walsh*  
*Public Records*

10/23/2020

RE: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST of September 18, 2020., Reference # R000673-091820

Dear Nathaniel:

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*I request records of all the Public Record Requests in the bostonma.govqa.us portal (City of Boston Public Records Center), going as far back as records exist.*

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*Reference No*

*Status*

*Balance Due*

*Payments*

*Department*

*Describe the Record(s) Requested*

*Preferred Method to Receive Records*

*Thanks!*

*Nathan*

Thank you for your email asking for an update on this request. Apologies for the delay and I hope to get a response to you within the next five days.

Very truly yours,

Shawn A. Williams, Esq.  
Director of Public Records  
Records Access Officer

← On 10/23/2020 11:58:42 AM, Nathaniel Story wrote:

Hello,  
What's the status of this request?

Is #3 (the redacted descriptions) blocking this? If so, can I have #1 and #2 for now? I'll then open a separate request for redacted descriptions based on the BPD list.

← On 10/7/2020 5:55:02 PM, Nathaniel Story wrote:

For this request, could you send:

1. the City's request database from March 2020 to the present
2. the full Boston Police Department list without the description field
3. the 25 most recent completed requests (not In Progress) to the Boston Police Department with redacted descriptions

Thank you for explaining the different records available. I appreciate it!

Nathan

✉ On 10/7/2020 4:34:51 PM, City of Boston wrote:

**Subject:** City of Boston Public Records Office City Public Records Request :: R000673-091820

**Body:**



*City of Boston*  
*Mayor Martin J. Walsh*  
*Public Records*

10/07/2020

RE: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST of September 18, 2020., Reference # R000673-091820

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*Please include all fields present in each record including but not limited to:  
Reference No*

*Status*  
*Balance Due*  
*Payments*  
*Department*  
*Describe the Record(s) Requested*  
*Preferred Method to Receive Records*

*Thanks!*  
*Nathan*

Thank you for your query, and thank you for your patience. I do intend to provide responsive information to you. The Boston Police Department has had a request database for a few years; the City's request database is from March 2020 to the present. If you seek only the City's information I will be able to provide this quickly.

For the Boston Police Department it becomes more complicated, as that list contains information that is required to be redacted. If you wish, I have the entire list that I can send right away, but that list omits a description of the record requested.

Please also note that the City generally does not assess fees for records. As such, the record I have does not have any information about payments or balances due. As to preferred method, the public records law presumes requesters seek electronic copies rather than paper.

Please let me know how you wish to proceed. I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,



Shawn A. Williams, Esq.  
Director of Public Records  
Records Access Officer

← On 10/5/2020 12:58:01 PM, Nathaniel Story wrote:

Following up, what is the status of this request?

✉ On 9/18/2020 6:50:30 PM, City of Boston wrote:

Dear Nathaniel Story

Thank you for your interest in public records of City of Boston. Your request has been received and is being processed. Your request was received in this office on 9/18/2020 6:50:26 PM and given the reference number R000673-091820 for tracking purposes.

I request records of all the Public Record Requests in the bostonma.govqa.us portal (City of Boston Public Records Center), going as far back as records exist.

Please include all fields present in each record including but not limited to:

Reference No

Status

Balance Due

Payments

Department

Describe the Record(s) Requested

Preferred Method to Receive Records

Thanks!

Nathan

You can monitor the progress of your request at the link below and you'll receive an email when your request has been completed. Again, thank you for using the Public Records Center.

Director of Public Records

Records Access Officer

City of Boston

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Track the issue status and respond at: [https://bostonma.govqa.us/WEBAPP/\\_rs/RequestEdit.aspx?rid=6210](https://bostonma.govqa.us/WEBAPP/_rs/RequestEdit.aspx?rid=6210)

✉ On 9/18/2020 6:50:28 PM, Nathaniel Story wrote:

Request was created by customer