



NEW JERSEY GOVERNMENT RECORDS COUNCIL
Administrative Complaint Disposition – Unripe Cause of Action

John Doe
Complainant

GRC Complaint No. 2022-143

v.

Township of Irvington (Essex)
Custodial Agency

Custodian of Record: Harold E. Wiener
Request Received by Custodian: April 4, 2022
GRC Complaint Received: April 18, 2022

Complaint Disposition: The Complainant provided his OPRA request for e-mails to the Custodian on April 4, 2022. Shonta Watson, on behalf of the Custodian, responded to the request on April 5, 2022, informing the Complainant that an extension of time until May 31, 2022 was required. The Complainant verified his complaint on April 18, 2022, which is within the extended time period.

Here, this complaint is materially defective and shall be dismissed because the requested records are not immediate access records and because the Complainant verified his complaint before the statutory time period for the Custodian to respond, *as extended*, had expired. See Rivera v. Borough of Rutherford Police Dep't (Bergen), GRC Complaint No. 2011-277 (August 2012). See also Inzelbuch v. Lakewood Bd. of Educ. (Ocean), GRC Complaint No. 2012-323 (February 2013).

Applicable OPRA Provision: “[A] custodian of a government record shall grant access to a government record or deny access to a government record as soon as possible, but not later than seven business days after receiving the request . . .” N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i).

“A person who is denied access to a government record by the custodian of the record . . . may institute a proceeding to challenge the custodian’s decision by filing . . . a complaint with the Government Records Council . . .” N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6.

This is the final administrative determination in this matter. Any further review should be pursued in the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey within forty-five (45) days. Information about the appeals process can be obtained from the Appellate Division Clerk’s Office, Hughes Justice Complex, 25 W. Market St. PO Box 006, Trenton, NJ 08625-0006.

Effective Date of Disposition: May 31, 2022

Prepared By: John E. Stewart

Date: May 24, 2022

Distribution Date: June 1, 2022