January 26, 2018

Re: Request for access to information under Part 2 of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Application Number 18 01 56

On January 15, 2018, the City of Winnipeg received your request for access to the following records:

Please provide a complete copy of the audited financial statements for campaign expenses and contributions (including the list of individual donors over $250) for mayoral candidate Brian Bowman in the 2014 election. Note: Please note that in the past, the Clerk’s office has had a policy of requiring individuals to manually copy records in person, however please refer to my previous request for these records (FIPPA #1408659) - in this prior request for the same record type, they were released in full after the intervention of the Ombudsman.

On January 22, 2018, you corresponded with Konrad Krahn, the Corporate Access and Privacy Coordinator, and Mr. Krahn informed you that the information requested is available online at http://winnipeg.ca/clerks/election/election2014/auditedfinancialstatements.stm. In your response, you mentioned the addresses/postal codes of the contributors.

Looking back at the Ombudsman complaint that you referenced, there was no finding that the City must make the information available online or in machine-readable form – only that the City is required to make this information available. Although the previous means of making this information available met the legislative requirements, the City recognized it was restrictive and determined to make it a more accessible dataset, so long as the privacy of individuals was not compromised. The privacy of individuals was always the primary concern with this particular dataset. The information, including contributor addresses/postal codes, remains publicly available for inspection at the City Clerk’s office. The information that is available through the link above strikes the balance between transparency and privacy that we strive to meet.

Accordingly, as per section 6(2) of the Act, the information that you have requested is available to the public and it is not necessary to make an application under the Act for it:

**Part does not apply to publicly available information**

6(2) This Part does not apply to information that is available to the public free of charge or for purchase.

Section 59(1) of the Act provides that you may make a complaint about this decision to the Manitoba Ombudsman. You have 60 days from the receipt of this letter to make a complaint on the prescribed form to the Manitoba Ombudsman (mail: 750-500 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R3C 3X1; telephone: 204-982-9130 or 1-800-665-0531).
If you have any questions, please call me at (204) 986-3141.

Sincerely,

Denise Jones
Access and Privacy Coordinator