RE: Illinois Freedom of Information Act Request

To Whom It May Concern:
This is a request for public records pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 ILCS 140/1 to 140/11. We seek the following:

A. How many School Resource Officers are employed in your school district?
B. Please provide the Memorandum of Understanding or any agreement that you have with the police department that provides you with a School Resource Officer.

We are asking for a waiver of the fees incurred for the information we seek. The Illinois Freedom of Information Act permits you to waive or reduce fees if you determine that doing so would serve the public interest. 5 ILCS 140/6(c). A “waiver or reduction of the fee is in the public interest if the principal purpose of the request is to disseminate information regarding the health, safety, and welfare or the legal rights of the general public and is not for the principal purpose of personal or commercial benefit.” Id.

The following FOIA requests are being made to determine the number of School Resource Officers employed in the state of Illinois, and the Memoranda of Understanding governing those relationships, in order to aid in the Shriver Center’s advocacy around School Resource Officer trainings. Therefore, it would be appropriate for you to waive any fees associated with reproducing the records we have requested. In the event that you deny our request to waive costs, please consult us in advance of copying to discuss what costs these requests may incur.

Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/3(d), we expect you to comply with or deny our written request within 5 working days of its receipt. If you have any questions, please contact me at 312.549.9879.

Sincerely,
Michelle Mbekeani-Wiley
Staff Attorney, Community Justice Division