



Andrea Garcia <agarcia@norridge80.net>

Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request

Michael Ayele <waacl13@gmail.com>
To: agarcia@norridge80.net
Cc: "Michael Ayele (W)" <waacl13@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 5:45 AM

W (AACL) Date.: October 22nd 2025
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Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request

Hello,

This is Michael A. Ayele sending this message though I now go by W and I prefer to be referred to as such. I am writing this letter for the purpose of filing a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with Norridge School District 80.

I) Requested Records

What I am requesting for prompt disclosure are records in your possession detailing [1] the circumstances that led Norridge School District 80 to begin maintaining a FOIA log on its website beginning Calendar Year 2020; [2] the policy of Norridge School District 80 on updating its FOIA log; [3] the name(s), the academic background(s), the professional responsibility(ies) and the annual salary(ies) of the person(s) responsible for updating Norridge School District 80's FOIA log; [4] the company responsible for hosting the official website of Norridge School District 80; [5] the terms and conditions of the contractual agreement concluded between Norridge School District 80 and its website hosting company; [6] your discussions about the Amazon Web Service (AWS) global outage of October 20th 2025; [7] your discussions about the Microsoft Windows global outage of July 19th 2024; [8] your discussions about the documented susceptibility of Windows 11 to crashes (commonly referred to as the "*blue screen of death*") during updates.

II) Request for a Fee Waiver and Expedited Processing

Pursuant to the Illinois FOIA, I am hereby requesting a waiver of all search, review and duplication fees associated with the processing of this request because the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest, as it directly concerns how a public school district – an essential component of America's critical infrastructure – responds to

cybersecurity challenges that affect public access to government information (as well as government correspondence with people and organizations in the private sector). In my opinion, the public has a strong and legitimate interest in understanding how local government agencies (similarly situated to Norridge School District 80) manage and protect their information systems, particularly when those systems are central to transparency, accountability and public service continuity.

Pursuant to the Illinois FOIA, I am also hereby requesting that this FOIA request be expeditiously processed because the delayed disclosure of responsive records (that exist in your possession) would impede timely public understanding of how Norridge School District 80 ensures the integrity and the availability of its information systems in the face of widespread digital disruptions (such as the one that occurred on July 19th 2024 and more recently on October 20th 2025). On my end, I am thoroughly convinced that the requested information bears directly on public confidence in the operational resilience of local government agencies, including schools, which perform a vital civic and educational function.

As you are likely aware, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had recently issued a press release recognizing that *“Cybersecurity Awareness Month (October) is an international initiative that highlights essential actions to reduce cybersecurity risks. This year’s theme is Building a Cyber Strong America, highlighting the need to strengthen the country’s infrastructure against cyber threats, ensuring resilience and security. Cybersecurity is more than an IT issue – it’s a public safety and economic security priority. Many organizations are part of the nation’s critical infrastructure, from local utilities and transportation systems to hospitals, schools and public safety agencies. (...) The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the federal lead for the campaign, provides resources for organizations to help educate employees and other organizations that are connected in some way. Cybersecurity Awareness Month is supported by corporations, government agencies, businesses, tribes, non-profits and professionals committed to cybersecurity education and protecting our communities. (...) We live in a highly connected world, with more sensitive information online than ever before.”*

In my judgment, the public has the right to know how their local educational institutions are safeguarding both digital transparency (via FOIA logs) and cybersecurity resilience. Accordingly, expedited processing is justified under FOIA because the requested information concerns the ability of a local government agency – classified (by the DHS) *“as part of the nation’s critical infrastructure”* – to maintain the integrity and availability of its information systems during nationally recognized cybersecurity incidents.

My request for a fee waiver should be granted because:

1. I have identified operations and activities that reflect coordination between federal government agencies (such as the Department of Homeland Security) and U.S. local

government entities, particularly in the area of cybersecurity preparedness and public information management.

2. The issues presented in this request are meaningfully informative about government operations and activities, and the responsive records are likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of how local government agencies (similarly situated to Norridge School District 80) protect public access to information while managing technological risk.

3. This request is being filed for non-commercial purposes, and any records disclosed in response will be made available to the general public at no financial cost, thereby facilitating broader civic understanding and accountability consistent with the public interest objectives of the Illinois FOIA, which decrees as follows: *“It is the public policy of this State that public bodies exist to aid in the conduct of the people’s business and that the people have a right to be informed as to the conduct of their business. (...) Pursuant to the fundamental philosophy of the American constitutional form of government, it is declared to be the public policy of the State of Illinois that all persons are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts and policies of those who represent them as public officials and public employees consistent with the terms of this Act. Such access is necessary to enable the people to fulfill their duties of discussing public issues fully and freely, making informed political judgments and monitoring government to ensure that it is being conducted in the public interest.”*

Under penalty of perjury, I hereby declare all the statements I have made to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

