

PERAC

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS | PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

JOSEPH E. CONNARTON, *Executive Director*

Auditor SUZANNE M. BUMP | PHILIP Y. BROWN, ESQ. | JOHN B. LANGAN | JAMES M. MACHADO | DONALD R. MARQUIS | ROBERT B. McCARTHY

October 21, 2014

Adam Andrzejewski
Chairman, American Transparency
200 S. Frontage Road, Suite 304
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Dear Mr. Andrzejewski:

This letter is in response to your public records requests of September 29, 2014 relative to certain information of active and retired Massachusetts' public employees. Specifically, these two records requests seek 6 years (2008-2013) worth of data; including employer name, zip code, employee name, date of birth, gross annual wages including overtime, position, etc. Further, you request that this information be provided electronically and broken down by employer, employee and year. Finally, you seek a waiver of any fees associated with this request and seek prior approval of costs before they are incurred.

Due to the decentralized nature of the Massachusetts' pension system (105 systems), some of the requested information you seek is not in our possession. Information on active and retired employees is maintained at the local level and is not possessed by PERAC. Annually, certain of these categories of information regarding active employees are generally provided to PERAC for actuarial purposes. This information is contained on 105 separate files (for each year, with separate files for actives and retirees) and would require requesting archived information, cleansing the data due to the inclusion of certain active and inactive employees, redacting of certain information such as social security numbers, and the transmittal of the information to the degree possible. As to the retirees' information, this information is received by PERAC in similar fashion. In both cases, some of the information is available on the local systems' files generally provided to us while certain other information, such as zip codes, overtime payments, employee's position, employer, are not in our possession.

Be advised that PERAC is not statutorily obligated to assemble information in a requested format in a case where the information is not possessed or maintained in that



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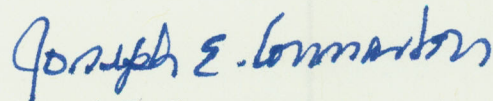
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format, nor are we obligated to provide information in a certain format, such as by electronic copy.

Be advised that the extraordinary time and effort that would go into the processing of your two requests would require an upfront payment from your organization before we would begin our response to your requests. Additionally, it is likely to take several months to process these two requests, as staff cannot simply be dedicated to processing the requests to the complete exclusion of their regular duties, and may very well require overtime payments. As an initial charge, we are seeking a \$10,000 payment, representing roughly 11 weeks' salary of the lowest paid office employee capable of performing these tasks (400 hours-20 minutes per file), in addition to IT and Actuarial staff assistance. This estimate includes search and segregation costs associated with over 1200 separate files. If this payment is received, we will begin the process of assembling the responsive information. Be advised, however, that it is expected that additional IT, actuarial and legal costs will also be incurred during this process. The actual bill will then be presented for payment prior to records being turned over.

Please contact this office with any questions.

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Connarton
Executive Director

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