

August 7, 2019

Ryan D. Jayne  
Freedom from Religion Foundation  
PO Box 750  
Madison, WI 53701

**Via e-mail only to ryan@ffrf.org and kristina@ffrf.org**

Dear Attorney Jayne:

This is in response to a public records request, dated July 18, 2019, wherein you request records related to contracts or other agreements, applications or similar records, applicable policies, guidelines, or similar documents involving County fund allocations to Youth for Christ and e-mails between Racine County Board Members or Jonathan Delagrave regarding Youth for Christ. Please be advised that I am not the custodian of records for the Racine County Executive's Office, the Finance Department, nor the Human Services Department and that I am writing only in my capacity as counsel for Racine County.

1. You requested "all contracts or other agreements involving any County fund allocations, including grants, to which Youth for Christ is a party."

Enclosed please find all records responsive to your request.

2. You requested "all applications or similar records regarding requests for County fund allocations, including grants, from Youth for Christ."

Enclosed please find all records responsive to your request.

3. You requested "all applicable policies, guidelines, or similar documents regarding the use of County funds for religious purposes."

There are no records responsive to your request, however we direct your attention to the language of the grant application which details the guidelines of the grant and how the funds should be used.

Further, as is required to receive a Cultural and Community Service grant, Youth for Christ's programming is community-based, aligns with Racine County's

mission statement and demonstrates tangible public benefits to the Racine County community. The county's grant allocation to Youth for Christ has benefitted hundreds of Racine County children of many different or no religious faiths, with mentoring services provided for teen parents, those in juvenile detention, and at-risk youth.

Racine County believes in a comprehensive and holistic approach to rehabilitation and know that individual success is based upon all seven dimensions of wellness – spiritual wellness being one of those components. In our juvenile detention center, for example, we offer multidimensional voluntary programming to address all components of wellness and have a great partnership with our local chaplain to assist juveniles of all faiths (though youth are not required to have religious or spiritual mentoring within these programs). We are proud of this integrated model.

4. You requested “all e-mails to or from any Racine County Board member, or Jonathan Delagrave, that include the search terms “Youth for Christ” or “YFC.”

A search was completed and over 250 emails were returned as potentially responsive to your request. The search parameters you requested, “Youth for Christ” and “YFC” returned additional emails that were not responsive to your request, and therefore additional time is needed to identify the responsive emails. Due to the time needed to search and identify responsive records, a pre-payment is due as permitted by Wis. Stat. 19.35(3)(c). The amount due is specifically for the location fees related to staff time to search and identify responsive records. Information Technology Department staff spent three and a half hours to locate over 250 emails based on your request and Corporation Counsel staff have, to date, spent two hours to identify the responsive e-mails initial search results but additional hours will be needed to complete the review. If you wish to move forward with this portion of your request, a pre-payment of \$200.00 to “Racine County” is required. Upon completion of our review and before we release the records, we will advise if additional payment is needed.

Sincerely,



John P. Serketich  
Assistant Corporation Counsel

Enc.