



Jason Lawson <lawsonaaronjay@gmail.com>

FOIA Appeal & ADA Title II Accommodation Request – Record Request #25-249

2 messages

Jason Lawson [REDACTED]

Thu, Mar 27 at 4:35 PM

To: <foiaappeals@geneseecountymi.gov>, <miag@michigan.gov>, <ADA.complaint@usdoj.gov>, Jason Atkins-Lawson [REDACTED] <wnem@wnem.com>

Cc: <AG-CivilRights@michigan.gov>, <AG-HealthFraud@michigan.gov>, <AG-Nessel@michigan.gov>, <ag-foia@michigan.gov>, <MDHHS-OIG@michigan.gov>, <MDHHS-Director@michigan.gov>, <MDHHS-FOIA@michigan.gov>

Bcc: Jason Lawson [REDACTED]

03/27/2025

Subject: FOIA Appeal & ADA Title II Accommodation Request – Record Request #25-249

To: foiaappeals@geneseecountymi.gov

Dear Chairperson of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners,

I am submitting this formal appeal regarding the denial of my FOIA Request #25-249 related to SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) Program and the SOAR Fund (Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve).

Your response states that “no responsive records were located” based on a “thorough search.” However, this contradicts publicly available information, as Genesee County has a known financial relationship with Genesee Health System (GHS), including shared retirement funds and programmatic initiatives. Given this, it is implausible that no records exist regarding the SOAR program’s funding, administration, or distribution at the county level.

Grounds for Appeal:

1. Failure to Conduct a Full and Reasonable Search:

- The denial does not demonstrate that all reasonable locations were searched, including financial audits, interdepartmental communications, or GHS-related records.
- The Michigan Freedom of Information Act (MCL 15.233 Sec. 3(1)) requires a good-faith effort to locate responsive records. A statement claiming records do not exist does not exempt the county from its obligation to conduct a thorough and documented search.

2. Known Public Interest & Funding Ties:

- The SOAR program operates nationwide with local county partnerships. If Genesee County has ever engaged in SOAR-related initiatives, financial records, grant allocations, or communications must exist.
- If the County does not directly manage SOAR funds, all records of intergovernmental agreements, correspondence with GHS, and funding allocations related to SOAR should be disclosed.

3. ADA Title II Accommodation Request for FOIA Processing:

- Under Title II of the ADA (42 U.S.C. § 12131 et seq.), public entities must provide reasonable accommodations in access to public records.
- I request the following accommodations:
- A detailed, itemized explanation of the search conducted, including all databases and departments queried.
- Clarification on record retention policies regarding SOAR-related documents.
- Assistance in refining my request if necessary, rather than a blanket denial.

Requested Action:

- Immediate reversal of the denial and provision of responsive records.
- If records are not in Genesee County's possession, a written certification identifying the entity responsible (e.g., GHS, a state-level agency, etc.).
- Formal acknowledgment of my ADA Title II request and a reasonable accommodation response in compliance with federal law.

If no corrective action is taken, I will escalate this matter to the Michigan Attorney General's Office, the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, and any other relevant oversight agencies.

Please confirm receipt of this appeal and provide a response by [insert appropriate deadline based on FOIA timelines].

Sincerely,

Jason Aaron Atkins-Lawson

He/him/his

[REDACTED]

Flint Michigan 48506

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Jason Lawson [REDACTED]

Thu, Mar 27 at 4:39 PM

To: <foiaappeals@geneseecountymi.gov>, <miag@michigan.gov>, <ADA.complaint@usdoj.gov>, <AG-CivilRights@michigan.gov>, <AG-Nessel@michigan.gov>

Cc: <wnem@wnem.com>, <MDHHS-OIG@michigan.gov>, Jason Atkins-Lawson [REDACTED]

Bcc: Jason Lawson [REDACTED] <ag-foia@michigan.gov>

03/27/2025

Subject: Follow-Up – FOIA Appeal & ADA Title II Accommodation Request – Record Request #25-249

Dear Chairperson of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners,

Following my previous email, I am confirming receipt of this appeal and ADA accommodation request.

Please provide a formal response acknowledging this appeal and outlining the next steps by [April 5, 2025] in accordance with FOIA processing timelines and ADA compliance requirements.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Best,

Jason Aaron Atkins-Lawson Jr.

[Quoted text hidden]

Your Genesee County, Michigan public records request #25-249 has been closed..pdf