



July 17, 2019

**VIA E-MAIL**

Ms. Eliza Fawcett

Chicago Tribune

Email: [efawcett@chicagotribune.com](mailto:efawcett@chicagotribune.com)

RE: 19-FOIA-167 All Metra Injury and Fatality Incidents 2014 - 2019

Dear Ms. Fawcett:

We are in receipt of your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.*

On June 21, 2019, we received your request for all existing records regarding Metra passenger injuries or fatalities which have occurred in the past five (5) years from 2014 through 2019. Additionally, you requested for each incident: any and all available information on the date, time, location, and circumstances of the incident; whether it was recorded as an accident, assault, suicide attempt, or the like; and a copy of the incident report, if available (“**Request**”).

I contacted you by email on June 21 and explained that after consulting with Metra’s Risk department about your Request, it was determined that your Request as written for “any and all accident/fatality incidents involving Metra trains in the last five (5) years . . . involving passengers, pedestrians, trespassers, etc.” was overly broad and contemplated a voluminous amount of records to be gathered by Metra’s Risk and Police departments. These records would also require our department’s review for possible redactions, thus making your request, as written, unduly burdensome. I asked if you would consider narrowing the scope of your request to a significantly shorter time frame with the understanding that you may submit future requests for records.

You responded to my email that same day and clarified that you were most interested in incidents of suicides or attempted suicides on the tracks involving Metra trains and indicated that you were not sure whether those incidents would be classified as such in our database, as opposed to just being called fatalities. You asked if it would be possible to request the last three (3) years of records – data, incident reports – related to those incidents, or simply records of fatalities from the last three (3) years if they were not listed specifically as suicides.

I sent you an email on June 27, requesting that you call me to discuss your Request, which you did. I followed-up our conversation with an email summarizing our telephone discussion where you further clarified that you wanted this data for the years 2016, 2017, 2018 and for the month of January 2019. Additionally, you agreed to accept this data without the reports affiliated with the incidents for now, with the understanding that you could submit future requests for the incident reports upon your review of the incident data.

On July 10, I spoke to you about further extending your Request due date to July 17, as I explained there was some difficulty reconciling the data received from our Safety and Risk departments in addition to

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double-checking the data received for Y2016, as this data appeared to be incomplete. I also noted that we were verifying the accuracy of the data for Y2018 - Y2019. You agreed to grant this extension.

In response to your Request, Metra is providing you with an excel spreadsheet containing fatality/suicide data for years 2016, 2017, 2018 through July 2, 2019, with columns for: the event date, event indicator, event primary location, location type, event address and a comments section noting if the event was a fatality or suicide. Please see notation at the bottom of the spreadsheet for information concerning Comments column.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Haton  
Freedom of Information Officer  
[FOIA@metrarr.com](mailto:FOIA@metrarr.com)

Attachment