



STATE OF INDIANA

ERIC J. HOLCOMB, Governor

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lack of reasonable particularity. If the request was narrowed down to a specific parcel, taxpayer or year, it may be able to be fulfilled. Otherwise the request would be deemed denied. The Complainant narrowed his request on April 17 seeking "all checks, including check stubs, issued to George Uzelac & Associates, Inc., without further qualification, between the period 01/01/2006 and 12/31/2015." After a search, the Office of the Attorney concluded there were no records responsive to the request.

ANALYSIS

The public policy of the APRA states that "(p)roviding persons with information is an essential function of a representative government and an integral part of the routine duties of public officials and employees, whose duty it is to provide the information." *See Indiana Code § 5-14-3-1*. The Lake County Government, as a political subdivision, is a public agency for the purposes of the APRA. *See Indiana Code § 5-14-3-2(n)*. Accordingly, any person has the right to inspect and copy Lake County's disclosable public records during regular business hours unless the records are protected from disclosure as confidential or otherwise exempt under the APRA. *See Indiana Code § 5-14-3-3(a)*.

This Office does not consider any of the requests submitted by the Complainant to meet any ascertainable standard of reasonable specificity pursuant to Ind. Code § 5-14-3-3. To its credit, however, Lake County made a good faith search for the records. In my estimation, this goes above and beyond its statutory duty. No records were found, however, and a public agency does not have to create records which do not exist.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, it is the Opinion of the Indiana Public Access Counselor that the Lake County Government did not violate the Access to Public Records Act.

Regards,

Luke H. Britt

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Britt", written over a white background.

Public Access Counselor

Cc: Mr. Tramel Raggs, Esq.