STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

10/5/2026

Stuart Sandler

20218 CATHERINE COURT

REHOBOTH BEACH, DE 19971

Subject: CR-16140, 16140 Benson gmail request

Dear Stuart Sandler:

The Michigan Department of State (Department) has begun processing your request for records under the provisions of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 et seq.

Your request is granted as to existing, non-exempt records in the possession of the Agency that fall within the scope of your request. To process your request, the Department estimates a FOIA processing fee of $13,256.97 to search for, retrieve, review, examine, and separate exempt material, if any. The FOIA authorizes the Department to charge for mailing costs, copying, searching, reviewing, deleting and separating exempt from nonexempt information (MCL 15.234). The failure to charge a fee for the search, examination, review, and the deletion and separation of exempt from nonexempt information would result in unreasonably high costs to the Department in this particular instance because, unlike a simple report or a small amount of documents with nonexempt information, your request involves a number of documents and would require employee(s) to be diverted from their original duties to process this request and will be required to expend additional time to complete their regularly assigned duties.

The Department's estimated costs to process your FOIA request are attached. The charge for the Department's labor is the burdened (salary + 50% of benefits) hourly rate of lowest paid employee(s) capable of completing the necessary tasks. Please note that the stated amounts are **estimates only** and may increase or decrease depending on the final costs incurred.

If your request was submitted via the Records Request Portal, you may pay the deposit of $6,628.48 in the portal by selecting "Request Details" for the request number (CR)

indicated in the subject line above. All other requestors can make payment by check or money order payable to the STATE OF MICHIGAN and mailed to:

Michigan Department of State
Cashier Unit
7064 Crowner Drive
Lansing, MI 48918

To ensure proper credit, please enclose a copy of this letter for the Cashier Unit and write down your CR number your check.

Upon the receipt of your non-refundable deposit, the Department will continue processing your request. The Department estimates it can process your request in approximately 100 days. Again, this is an **estimate only** issued today, and may vary depending on staffing (vacations, illnesses, etc.) and workload. The Department will notify you when completed and send the records upon receipt of your final payment of the actual balance due. As set forth under section 4(14) of the FOIA, MCL 15.234(14), if a fee appeal has not been filed under section 10a of the FOIA, MCL 15.240a, the Department must receive the required deposit within 45 days after your statutorily-determined receipt of this notice, otherwise the FOIA request will be considered abandoned and the Department will not be required to fulfill the request.

The Department's FOIA procedures and guidelines and written public summary can be accessed at www.michigan.gov/sos/Resources/transparency

Sincerely,

MDOS FOIA Coordinator