

CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, IOWA

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS POLICY

GENERAL POLICY

This Public Records Requests Policy sets forth the process for making and responding to Public Records requests to the City of University Heights, as well as payment of costs associated with the City's response. The City's policy is to respond to requests to examine or copy Public Records maintained by the City within a reasonably prompt time, in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22.

CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS

A request to examine or copy Public Records should be directed to the lawful custodian of the Public Records for the applicable City Department:

A. Police Department Records

CHIEF OF POLICE
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT
1004 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City, IA 52246
ken.stanley@uhpolice.org
Phone: (319) 887-6800
Fax: 319-337-4404

B. All other City Departments

CITY CLERK
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
1004 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City, IA 52246
uhclerk@yahoo.com

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS PROCESS

The process for requests to examine or copy Public Records of or belonging to the City is as follows:

1. Requests should be submitted to the designated custodian of Public Records (Chief of Police or City Clerk).
2. Requests may be in writing, by email, or orally, but the City prefers written or email requests to avoid misunderstandings. The person making the request is encouraged to use the City's "Public Records Request Form".
3. The request should be as specific as possible so the City may properly respond.
4. The person making the request is encouraged provide contact information so the City has a means of asking questions or otherwise communicating. If the person making the request chooses not to provide contact information, the City's ability to respond promptly and fully may be compromised.
5. The City will provide a reasonable opportunity for examination or copying of the requested Public Records at the following times:
 - Police Department Records: Monday-Friday 9:00a.m.-5:00p.m., excluding legal holidays, or at other times agreed to by the person making the request and the Chief of Police.
 - All Other Public Records: Contact City Clerk to schedule time to examine and/or copy records (uhclerk@yahoo.com).
6. The custodian of the Public Records (Chief of Police or City Clerk) will respond to requests within a reasonably prompt time, as provided by Iowa law.
7. Certain records are exempt from disclosure, and will not be made available for inspection or copying. These are some examples of exempt records: medical records, trade secrets protected by law, privileged information, personal information in confidential personnel records, and peace officers' ongoing investigative reports.*
8. Responses by email will be provided in a format that prevents records from being altered.

* See Iowa Code § 22.7 for a full list of confidential records exempt from disclosure.

9. The person requesting records will be required to pay the City's reasonable costs associated with responding to the request.
- **Reproduction Charges**
 - Charges for photocopies
 - Commercial rate, not to exceed the City's actual cost of providing the service.
 - The person requesting records may suggest a copy company but City makes final determination.
 - Charges for records provided on CD or DVD: \$30.00 for the storage medium and transferring data to the medium.
 - **Staff Charges**
 - The City will provide fifteen (15) minutes of City staff time free of charge with respect to each Public Records request.
 - After the first fifteen minutes, the person requesting records will be charged at the City's actual rate for paying staff or contracted professionals involved with responding to requests.
 - **Delivery Charges**
 - If the person requesting records asks to have records delivered by mail, postage will be charged at the City's actual cost.
 - **Supervision/Staff Charges**
 - The City will provide fifteen (15) minutes of City staff time for supervision or gathering records free of charge with respect to each Public Records request.
 - After the first fifteen (15) minutes, the person requesting records will be charged at the City's actual cost for paying staff or contracted professionals supervising or otherwise involved with responding to requests.
 - **Payment Policy**
 - The person requesting records will be provided with a bill, which must be paid before the records or copies will be provided.
 - If the City estimates that the cost of responding to a request will exceed \$10.00, the person requesting records will be provided with an estimate of total costs, and the person must to agree to pay the total costs associated with responding to the request (whether less than, more than, or the same as the estimate) before records will be gathered or copies will made.

- If the City estimates that the cost of responding to a request will exceed \$50.00, the person requesting records must pay the estimated costs before records will be gathered or copies will be made.
 - If the actual cost incurred by the City is less than the prepaid amount, the overpayment will be refunded promptly to the person who made the prepayment.
 - If the actual cost incurred by the City is more than the prepaid amount, the person requesting records must pay all additional amounts before the records or copies will be provided.
- All payments must be in the form of cash or check payable to “City of University Heights”.

QUESTIONS

Any questions concerning the City of University Heights Public Records Request Policy should be directed to the City Clerk:

CITY CLERK
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
1004 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City, IA 52246
uhclerk@yahoo.com

DISCLAIMER

Although records provided pursuant to requests may be deemed “public” records within the meaning of Iowa Code Chapter 22, the City cautions that the use of any information provided by the City should comply with all local, state and federal laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, those related to privacy, harassment, discrimination, debt collection, libel, slander, and tort.