



12 South Center Street
Bensenville, IL 60106

Office: 630.350.3404
Fax: 630.350.3438
www.bensenville.il.us

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December 2, 2020

Via electronic mail
Mr. Alex Harrison
alexandercharrison@gmail.com

Re: Freedom of Information Act request
Received November 16, 2020

Dear Mr. Harrison,

Thank you for writing to the Village of Bensenville ("Village") with your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.* Your FOIA request seeks copies of the following records:

- Documentation of Bensenville Police Department officers that are current members of the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) Mobile Field Force (MFF). This includes the total number of officers that Bensenville Police Department contributes to the MFF, the names of those officers, and their badge numbers.
- Documentation of all instances that Bensenville Police Department officers that are current members of the NIPAS MFF were placed on standby, staged, deployed, or otherwise activated, in the timespan of October 1st, 2020 to present. This includes the date of the activation, the names and badge numbers of activated officers, the NIPAS member department they were requested by and the location they were activated to, and the nature of the event they were activated in response to.
- Documentation of any and all correspondence between the Bensenville Police Department and other NIPAS member agencies relating to the activation or deployment of Bensenville officers in the MFF, in the timespan of October 1st, 2020 to present.

In November 23, 2020, correspondence to you, the Village extended its time frame for response to your FOIA request by five (5) business days. The requested records required examination and evaluation by personnel having the necessary competence and discretion to determine if they are exempt from disclosure under Section 7 of FOIA or should be revealed only with appropriate deletions. 5 ILCS 140/3(e)(v).

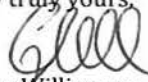
Your FOIA request is hereby granted in part and denied in part as follows. The attached records are being provided to you at no charge. Signatures have been withheld as private information exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(b) of FOIA. 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b). Information pertaining to NIPAS operations and its members has been withheld as exempt from disclosure under Sections 7(1)(d)(v) and (vi) of FOIA. 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(d)(v) and (vi). Section 7(1)(d)(v) exempts from inspection and copying information in the possession of law enforcement that if disclosed would disclose unique or specialized investigative techniques other than those generally used and known or disclose internal documents of correctional agencies related to detection, observation or investigation of incidents of crime or misconduct, and disclosure would result in demonstrable harm to the agency or public body that is the recipient of the request. 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(d)(v). Section 7(1)(d)(vi) of FOIA exempts from inspection and copying information in the possession of law enforcement that if disclosed would endanger the life or physical safety of law enforcement personnel or any other person. 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(d)(vi).

You have the right to have the partial denial of your FOIA request reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You may file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to:

Ms. Sarah Pratt
Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
Fax: 217-782-1396
E-mail: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us

You also have the right to seek judicial review of the partial denial of your FOIA request by filing a lawsuit in the State circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

Very truly yours,



Corey Williamsen
Freedom of Information Officer
Village of Bensenville

From: Alex Harrison <alexandercharrison@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2020 1:43 PM
To: FOIA Request
Subject: FOIA Request of Bensenville Police Department
Attachments: Bensenville FOIA form filled.pdf

To whom it may concern,

This is a request per the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. I request a copy of the following documents be provided to me:

- Documentation of Bensenville Police Department officers that are current members of the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) Mobile Field Force (MFF). This includes the total number of officers that Bensenville Police Department contributes to the MFF, the names of those officers, and their badge numbers.
- Documentation of all instances that Bensenville Police Department officers that are current members of the NIPAS MFF were placed on standby, staged, deployed, or otherwise activated, in the timespan of October 1st, 2020 to present. This includes the date of the activation, the names and badge numbers of activated officers, the NIPAS member department they were requested by and the location they were activated to, and the nature of the event they were activated in response to.
- Documentation of any and all correspondence between the Bensenville Police Department and other NIPAS member agencies relating to the activation or deployment of Bensenville officers in the MFF, in the timespan of October 1st, 2020 to present.

I have attached the completed request form to this email.

Best,
Alex Harrison



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Fax: 630.350.3438
www.bensenville.il.us

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Village Manager

Evan K. Summers

November 23, 2020

Mr. Alex Harrison

alexandercharrison@gmail.com

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request
Dated November 15, 2020

Dear Mr. Harrison:

I am pleased to help you with your November 15, 2020 Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). Your request was received by the Village of Bensenville on November 16, 2020. You requested copies of the items indicated below:

"Documentation of Bensenville Police Department officers that are current members of the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) Mobile Field Force (MFF). This includes the total number of officers that Bensenville Police Department contributes to the MFF, the names of those officers, and their badge numbers.


Documentation of all instances that Bensenville Police Department officers that are current members of the NIPAS MFF were placed on standby, staged, deployed, or otherwise activated, in the timespan of October 1st, 2020 to present. This includes the date of the activation, the names and badge numbers of activated officers, the NIPAS member department they were requested by and the location they were activated to, and the nature of the event they were activated in response to.

Documentation of any and all correspondence between the Bensenville Police Department and other NIPAS member agencies relating to the activation or deployment of Bensenville officers in the MFF, in the timespan of October 1st, 2020 to present."

The Village needs to consult with the Village Attorney to determine whether any of the records you have requested are exempt from disclosure under Section 7 of the FOIA or should be revealed only with appropriate deletions. Therefore, pursuant to Section 3(e)(v) of FOIA, 5 ILCS 140/3(e)(v), the Village is extending the time it has to respond to your request by an additional five (5) business days. The Village will respond to your request on or before December 2, 2020.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,


Corey Williamsen
Freedom of Information Officer
Village of Bensenville

From: NIPAS <nipas@nipas.org>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 3:54 PM
To: NIPAS EST Chiefs;NIPAS MFF Chiefs
Subject: NIPAS EST/MFF Election Preparations/Coverage
Attachments: Election Day PreparationCoverage.pdf

Good afternoon.

Please see attached PDF for an important message from the NIPAS president; thank you.

Debbie Bruggema | System Manager

Northern Illinois Police Alarm System

P.O. Box 96, Wheeling, IL 60090

Office 847.459.8531 Website www.nipas.org

For NIPAS EST or NIPAS MFF Emergency Response, contact Northwest Central Dispatch at 847.590.3500

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS POLICE ALARM SYSTEM

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Don and Debbie Bruggema

Emergency Services Team
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Brian Baker
Skokie Police

Mobile Field Force
Commander
Jim Scheib
Schiller Park Police

Communications
Coordinator
Sue Cooper

Northwest Central Dispatch System

TO: NIPAS EST and MFF Member Agencies

FROM: Chief Tom Weitzel, NIPAS President

RE: Election Preparations/Coverage

The NIPAS Emergency Services Team Commander Brian Baker and NIPAS Mobile Field Force Team Commander Jim Scheib, along with supervisors from their respective teams, have recommended the teams deploy and stage on Election Day as well as the day after the election. While no one knows what may happen given one scenario or another coming out of the election, what is certain is that there is currently a great amount of tension present in our region — and the possibility of civil unrest occurring during this time is high.

This recommendation to deploy and stage provides our NIPAS teams the best possible chance to be well organized, equipped, and prepared for this threat as well as to provide the best service possible to our member agencies. Therefore, NIPAS will create and stage four teams of MFF and EST officers. These four teams will be spread out throughout the region to respond to NIPAS member agencies, when needed. NIPAS will also be operating a Command Post and assess the threat and need to continue operations on a daily basis if necessary.

2020 has already been an unprecedented year, so we must expect the unexpected. While we remain proactive and certainly hope there will not be a need for our EST and MFF teams to actually respond to requests for service, we wanted you to know we are prepared to do so.

Planning remains fluid at this point in time. We will keep you posted as additional details and information warrants.

Respectfully,



From: NIPAS <nipas@nipas.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 11:26 AM
To: NIPAS EST Chiefs;NIPAS MFF Chiefs
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL Message from the NIPAS President

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: All NIPAS EST and MFF Member Agency Chiefs of Police
FROM: Thomas Weitzel, NIPAS President
RE: Election Night Staging

NIPAS MFF and EST will form 4 Quick Reaction Force (QRF) teams. Each QRF will have armor and approximately 50 members total with the capability to perform both EST and MFF missions. The QRF's will be staged in the NIPAS footprint based on recent experience on where there may be unrest as well as for ease of movement. The staging locations at present are:

1. [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Any NIPAS agency needing to request MFF or EST services should follow the normal procedure of calling Northwest Central Dispatch.

Anticipated deployment times are as follows:

Tuesday, November 3rd

Will begin with all members at NIPSTA for briefing, preparations, and rehearsals around 1100 hours. QRF's will depart for staging around 1600 hours and remain into the night based on intelligence received on what is occurring in our towns or in the region.

Wednesday, November 4th

QRF's will stage around 1600 hours at their locations and into the night as stated above.

It is my hope that the election process goes off without any concerns. However, the NIPAS Board and EST/MFF Team Commanders want to be prepared and want our member agencies to know that we are in place ready to respond, if needed.

From: Dan Schulze
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Brian Dooley; Eric Zodrow
Subject: Fwd: CONFIDENTIAL Message from the NIPAS President

Daniel Schulze
Chief of Police



345 E. Green Street, Bensenville, IL 60106
Phone: 630.350.3455 Fax: 630.594.1392
E-Mail: dschulze@bensenville.il.us
Web: www.bensenville.il.us

From: NIPAS <nipas@nipas.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 11:25:34 AM
To: NIPAS EST Chiefs <estchiefs@nipas.org>; NIPAS MFF Chiefs <mffchiefs@nipas.org>
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL Message from the NIPAS President

CONFIDENTIAL

TO:
All NIPAS EST and MFF Member Agency Chiefs of Police

FROM:
Thomas Weitzel, NIPAS President

RE:
Election Night Staging

NIPAS MFF and EST will form 4 Quick Reaction Force (QRF) teams. Each QRF will have armor and approximately 50 members total with the capability to perform both EST and MFF missions. The QRF's will be

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1- [REDACTED]

1- [REDACTED]

1- [REDACTED]

1- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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QRF's will stage around 1600 hours at their locations and into the night as stated above.

It is my hope that the election process goes off without any concerns. However, the NIPAS Board and EST/MFF Team Commanders want to be prepared and want our member agencies to know that we are in place ready to respond, if needed.

From: NIPAS <nipas@nipas.org>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 9:32 AM
To: NIPAS Chiefs
Subject: Letter from the NIPAS President
Attachments: Letter from the President 11.13.2020.pdf

Attached is a PDF containing a two-page letter from NIPAS President Tom Weitzel...



NORTHERN ILLINOIS POLICE ALARM SYSTEM

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November 13, 2020

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Commander
Brian Baker
Skokie Police

Mobile Field Force

Commander
Jim Scheib
Schiller Park Police

Communications
Coordinator
Sue Cooper

Northwest Central Dispatch System

Dear NIPAS Member Agency Chiefs,

I would like to take a moment to thank each of you for your continued support of the NIPAS Mobile Field Force. As you no doubt are aware, this past year has been busy for the Mobile Field Force and has tested the team as a whole. I am happy to announce that each officer assigned to the team has done a superior job in protecting citizens' lives, property, and Constitutional rights during these trying times. The officers that you provide to the team are a testament to the professionalism of each of your departments.

Over the past year, the Mobile Field Force has been required to respond to well over fifty (50) incidents, many of which have occurred simultaneously in different jurisdictions. These activations have occasionally stretched the Mobile Field Force thin in order to provide services to the numerous requesting NIPAS member agencies. Unfortunately, we see no indication of slowing down anytime soon in the current climate. It is for this reason that we would like to expand the Mobile Field Force to ensure we are able to meet the continued demands placed on the team and are able to provide the best possible services to each NIPAS member agency. Therefore, we are asking that you give careful consideration to assigning additional officers from your department to the NIPAS Mobile Field Force.

The NIPAS Mobile Field Force mission requires the maintenance of a large team that can respond to many different types of situations. The NIPAS Mobile Field Force team is composed of Line Officers, Arrest Team members, Cut Team members, Special Weapons Team members, K-9 Team members and their partners, Tactical Emergency Medical Support Team members, and Bicycle Response Team members.

Newly assigned Mobile Field Force members, with the exception of K-9 Officers and Bicycle Response Team members, are typically assigned as Line Officers. At present, the cost for an agency to equip a Line Officer is \$2,500.00. Line Officers are required to attend a two (2) day basic NIPAS Mobile Field Force course prior to being deployable as a Mobile Field Force Line Operator. They would then be required to attend a five (5) day Field Force Operations course within the first twelve (12) months of joining the team and a six (6) day Field Force Extrication course within the first two (2) years of joining the team. Both of these courses are conducted by the Center for Domestic Preparedness customarily at no cost to your agency. Upon completion of the Field Force Extrication course, the officer is assigned as a Cut Team member in addition to being a Line Officer. The Cut Team specializes in the neutralization of protestor devices. Again, all of this training is currently at no cost to your agency, other than manpower. Line Officers are required to attend mandatory team training seven (7) times a year.

Once a Line Officer has been on the team for a period of eighteen (18) months, they are eligible to try out for available positions within the Arrest or Special Weapons Teams. Arrest Team members, Cut Team members, Special Weapons Team members, K-9 Officers, and Tactical Emergency Medical Support Team members are required to attend mandatory training up to approximately ten (10) times a year, depending on their specialty. In order to request services from the NIPAS Mobile Field Force, a member agency must have a minimum of one officer assigned to any one of these teams, excluding BRT.

As you are well aware, recent events throughout the country have led to increased public scrutiny of police response to various protests and civil disturbances, to include analysis of police use of force in these situations, as well as the use of certain tactics and equipment deployed against protestors. It has become apparent, whether warranted or not, that some agencies have been criticized for immediately engaging protestors with a "line operation" type

NIPAS Member Agency Chiefs

Page Two

November 13, 2020

response (Mobile Field Force teams equipped with heavy armor, riot gear, gas, etc.), rather than attempting to utilize less confrontational methods for attempting to effectively deal with the crowd.

It is for this reason that the NIPAS Board approved the expansion of the Mobile Field Force to include a Bicycle Response Team component. The Bicycle Response Team has allowed for the staging of the Mobile Field Force team further away from the protestors, while strategically inserting the Bicycle Response Team to effectively deal with the crowd. This has helped to maintain a peaceful interaction between the police and protestors, while effectively controlling the fluid movement of crowds through or to designated routes. These Bicycle Response Team members differ from typical patrol "bike officers" as they are specially trained in effective crowd interaction techniques, which are generally met with less confrontation than the typical Line Officer. The technique has proven to be well received by protest groups and is an effective "middle ground" approach to protest response. We believe this to be a tactically prudent method of conducting our mission, while also addressing growing concerns over finding ways to be less confrontational upon initial response.

At present, the cost for an agency to equip a newly assigned Bicycle Response Team member is \$1,800.00. BRT candidates must possess basic bicycle patrol certification from IPMBA (offered through NEMRT or LEBA). To obtain certification, the officer must complete and pass the 32-hour course. Additionally Bicycle Response Team members are required to attend a three (3) day Field Force tactical class designed specifically for previously trained bike officers prior to becoming a deployable asset of the NIPAS Mobile Field Force. This three-day course is conducted at no charge to your agency.

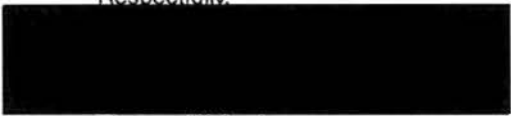
Bicycle Response Team members are also required to attend mandatory training three (3) times a year, where they will train and become acclimated with the full Mobile Field Force team. It is important to note that the Bicycle Response Team is considered a secondary position in the NIPAS Mobile Field Force. As such, a NIPAS member agency's sole officer on the team cannot be a member of the Bicycle Response Team.

All Mobile Field Force members are trained in traditional Mobile Field Force formations, applicable law, use of force for civil unrest, defensive tactics, self-aid/buddy-aid, small team tactics, and effectively neutralizing protestor devices. We believe every department should be well versed in these areas, especially in today's litigious society. We feel that your officers assigned to the team bring this training and information back to your Department which can better prepare your agency for any incident ranging from peaceful assembly to civil unrest.

It is my hope that after giving careful consideration to this important matter you will see the value of enhancing the NIPAS Mobile Field Force through the expansion of the team. If your department can assist in providing additional officers to participate in any discipline of the Mobile Field Force, please e-mail the NIPAS office. An information packet will be mailed to you for the upcoming MFF selection process scheduled to take place in January, 2021.

Thank you again for your continued support of NIPAS.

Respectfully,



Thomas Weitzel
NIPAS President

From: NIPAS <nipas@nipas.org>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 11:47 AM
To: NIPAS MFF Chiefs
Subject: Thank You
Attachments: NIPAS Mobile Field Force Thank You 11.11.2020.pdf

**CITY OF EVANSTON
EVANSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

DEMITROUS COOK, CHIEF OF POLICE

1454 ELMWOOD AVENUE
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201-4360

TEL 847-866-5005 FAX 847-866-9686
email: dcook@cityofevanston.org



11 November 2020

Dear President Herdegen:

On behalf of the Evanston Police Department, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the NIPAS Mobile Field Force members that responded to callouts by our agency. The group identified as "Abolish Police Now and Forever" pledged to protest for 30 consecutive days at various locations in Evanston beginning October 12, 2020. Each event lasted between 1 and 3.5 hours, causing disruption by way of traffic congestion and instances of criminal damage.

The Evanston Police Department appreciates the professionalism and efficient response to our calls to provide assistance with crowd control of up to 300 protestors and overall mutual aid.

Respectfully Submitted



Demitrous Cook # 200
Chief of Police