



Nathan Vasquez, Multnomah County District Attorney

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January 13, 2026

via email only

Ocean
oceanplot@gmail.com

Trevor Byrd
Deputy City Attorney
trevor.byrd@portlandoregon.gov

Re: Petition of Ocean seeking a full fee waiver for provision of public records

Dear Ocean and Mr. Byrd:

On January 6, 2026, Ocean submitted a public records request to the City of Portland for six categories of records relating to a specific property in NE Portland, including building inspection reports, land-use records, business license registrations, rent-assistance, grant funding, and “all communications” between the tenant and the City relating to the same. Portions of the request were date-limited to the last three years. Other portions were not date-limited. The City assigned the request number C437295-010626.

Ocean specified that they were an independent journalist and requested a public interest fee waiver. The City waived its standard (\$8) fee for building permit records, engaged in a discussion to clarify search terms for communications, and provided a portion of the responsive records at no charge. Ocean then petitioned this office, as permitted by ORS 192.324(6), for an order requiring the City to grant a full fee waiver. Because the City has already released a significant portion of the requested records to petitioner free-of-charge, the only matter before me is the City’s decision not to waive its costs for its review of 276 remaining emails.¹

In a separate decision today between these same parties I concluded that the City’s decision to grant only a partial fee waiver was objectively reasonable. *Petition of Ocean*, MCDA PRO 26-01 (Jan. 13, 2026). While the facts of this case differ slightly from those in 26-01, those differences

¹ In its response to the petition, the City describes its response to petitioner as follows:

After some back-and-forth clarifying search terms and the scope of the request, the City offered Oceanplot two search estimates: The first query returned approximately 276 results, and the second returned approximately 60 results. The City explained that it would waive any fees for the second search, but not for the first search because the first search would take approximately 4 hours of staff time.

Oceanplot indicated it would appeal the fee estimate for the first search and asked us to proceed on the second search. The City released the records of the second search (as well as code enforcement records) on January 8, 2026.

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do not compel a different result. If anything, the present case weighs more heavily in the City's favor because it has already produced responsive documents to petitioner at no cost.

For the reasons set out in Order 26-01, this petition is likewise denied.

Regards,

NATHAN VASQUEZ
District Attorney
Multnomah County, Oregon

By: 

Adam Gibbs

General Counsel

26-03