



**NEW JERSEY GOVERNMENT RECORDS COUNCIL**  
**Administrative Complaint Disposition – Unripe Cause of Action**

**Joe Doer**  
**Complainant**

**GRC Complaint No. 2022-523**

v.

**Township of Irvington (Essex)**  
**Custodial Agency**

**Custodian of Record:** Harold E. Wiener  
**Request Received by Custodian:** September 21, 2022  
**GRC Complaint Received:** September 26, 2022

**Complaint Disposition:** The Complainant provided his OPRA request for bills and invoices from 2020, 2021, and 2022, to the Custodian on September 21, 2022. The Custodian responded to the request on same day, informing the Complainant that an extension of time until October 31, 2022 was required for response. The Complainant verified his complaint on September 26, 2022, which is well within the extended time period.

Here, this complaint is materially defective and shall be dismissed because the Complainant verified his complaint before the statutory time period for the Custodian to respond, *as extended*, had expired.<sup>1</sup> See Rivera v. Borough of Rutherford Police Dep’t (Bergen), GRC Complaint No. 2011-277 (August 2012). See also Herron v. Twp. of Montclair, GRC Complaint No. 2006-178 (February 2007).

**Applicable OPRA Provision:** “[A] custodian of a government record shall grant access to a government record or deny access to a government record as soon as possible, but not later than seven business days after receiving the request . . .” N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i).

“A person who is denied access to a government record by the custodian of the record . . . may institute a proceeding to challenge the custodian’s decision by filing . . . a complaint with the Government Records Council . . .” N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6.

**This is the final administrative determination in this matter. Any further review should be pursued in the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey within forty-five (45) days. Information**

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<sup>1</sup> The records sought are immediate access records and the Custodian did respond immediately informing the Complainant that an extension of time was necessary. A custodian’s failure to “. . . respond in writing to [a] complainant’s OPRA request granting access, denying access, seeking clarification, or requesting an extension of time within the statutorily mandated seven (7) business days . . .” results in a “deemed” denial of the complainant’s OPRA request. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g); N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i). See Kelley v. Twp. of Rockaway, GRC Complaint No. 2007-11 (Interim Order October 31, 2007).



about the appeals process can be obtained from the Appellate Division Clerk's Office, Hughes Justice Complex, 25 W. Market St. PO Box 006, Trenton, NJ 08625-0006.

**Effective Date of Disposition:** November 9, 2022

Prepared By: Frank F. Caruso  
Executive Director

Date: October 27, 2022

**Distribution Date: November 10, 2022**