

**From:** [Vicki Viau And Steven Viau](#)  
**To:** [Joe Thompson](#); [Brad Mantela](#); [Robert Pontius](#); [Judy Akkala](#); [Steve O'Driscoll](#)  
**Cc:** [Eric Buckman](#); [Kim Berry](#)  
**Subject:** Subject: Formal FOIA Fee Appeal and Request for Transparency, Accountability...  
**Date:** Sunday, June 22, 2025 9:54:17 PM

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Subject: Formal FOIA Fee Appeal and Request for Transparency, Accountability, Equitable Access, and Due Process.

Date: June 22, 2025

From: Steven Viau  
817 Delta Avenue  
Gladstone, MI 49837  
[awardsfromus@gmail.com](mailto:awardsfromus@gmail.com)

To:  
Gladstone City Commission  
c/o Eric Buckman, City Manager  
c/o Kim Berry, FOIA Coordinator  
City of Gladstone  
1100 Delta Avenue  
Gladstone, MI 49837

Dear respected members of the Gladstone City Commission, Mayor Thompson, City Manager Mr. Buckman, and FOIA Coordinator Ms. Berry,

I am writing to formally appeal the estimated fees associated with FOIA Request #2025-11, which currently exceed \$1,000. I respectfully request that these costs be waived or substantially reduced under MCL 15.234(1) and (3), due to the critical public interest and personal hardship involved.

This request is not just about documents—it is about truth, fairness, and restoring public confidence in how our city is governed. The materials sought are vital for:

1. **Serving the Public Interest:** This request serves a vital public interest in promoting truth, accountability, and transparency involving decisions made by the City of Gladstone and its staff. This not only affects me but may reflect broader issues of fairness and accountability with members within the Gladstone administration.
2. **Clarifying Ethical Boundaries:** These documents relate directly to how the city of Gladstone defines and applies ethics. The documents are essential for defining “ETHICS” norms for conduct used by the city of Gladstone's management team. These norms distinguish between acceptable and unacceptable behavior relating to specific individuals, events, or subject based on my first-hand knowledge and experiences. The public deserves clarity on whether standards have been upheld—or not.
3. **Addressing Potential Misconduct:** If there have been missteps by Gladstone elected officials, city staff, or employees, the community has a right to know. This is a matter of legitimate public concern, and shielding such records behind unaffordable costs is incompatible and contradicts the principles of fairness and transparency our city claims to uphold. I have faced accountability for my actions now I am asking that the same standard be applied to all, without exception.
4. **Recognizing Financial Hardship:** I have already borne significant emotional and financial strain due to the city's actions. Requiring additional expense simply to get clarification and understanding of what occurred should be achieved without further financial burden. This is unreasonable and unnecessary to seek transparency for the public.
5. **Balancing Power:** There exists a profound and deeply troubling imbalance between an individual resident such as

myself and the institutional authority and resources of our city government. Public trust depends on the belief that all individuals are treated fairly, and that transparency is not a privilege reserved for the powerful. I urge you to take meaningful action now by waiving the FOIA fees and allowing this matter to be addressed openly and locally.

I have maintained a respectful and patient demeanor despite ongoing challenges, yet the City must acknowledge the ramifications of its actions or inaction upon my circumstances. So it's time for the full board of the Gladstone City commission to step forward and thoroughly examine the outcomes and consequences of administrative decisions that have harmed not only me but possibly others as well. I ask when this will stop and accountability will be applied to those responsible?

If any of you are willing to hear my side of the story, I respectfully ask that you contact me directly. I would deeply value the opportunity to speak with you honestly, openly, and with the hope that someone within our city leadership will be willing to listen and act with justice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven Viau  
Resident of Gladstone  
(906) 241-7494  
awardsfromus@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone Steven Viau