

September 23, 2024 Public Comment to the Council of the Village of Lake Orion

In the past month, I have sent public comments for Village of Lake Orion meetings. They have been dutifully received, filed, and ignored, if they are recognized at all.

8/26/2024 Public comment to Council on DDA/Village FOIA actions

9/6/2024 Public Comment to Council on lack of response to FOIA requests

9/16/2024 Public Comment to DDA Board and Council on Village of Lake Orion FOIA actions

In addition to these have been numerous emails with the DDA Executive Director (FOIA Coordinator?), the Village Manager, and Village Clerk/FOIA Coordinator. With all of that it is still not clear what the FOIA policy is for the Village and DDA, the issue has yet to be on the agenda and resolved at any meeting, and I have yet to receive a full response to my requests. It seems the ongoing violation of state law and local policy are not important enough for you to address.

I will not repeat what I have already written since you obviously do not care about the public and their rights. Stating it all again will undoubtedly not change anything. I will however point out some of the outstanding issues.

The Village Clerk stated in writing that information does not exist anywhere in the Village of Lake Orion even when that information was presented and discussed at a public meeting.

The DDA Executive Director tells me one thing while not responding fully to my FOIA requests, says something else in his report to the DDA Board, and then says something else at a DDA meeting. Honesty, clarity, and openness obviously do not exist.

After almost two years, the DDA and Village government are only now finding out what the EV charging stations are costing them and the public. This is a dereliction of duty to the public with the DDA Executive Director stating at the last DDA Board meeting that this service is probably costing the DDA, and therefore the public. Kudos to board member Campbell for saying we should not be paying to fuel people's cars, and yet it seems you may be. You still don't know.

A single source bid for \$25,400 was not on the agenda for the last DDA meeting and therefore unknown and undocumented to the public and anyone else. While most likely incomplete information, it was approved by the DDA Board due to conditions caused by the DDA Director and Board. Yet another FOIA request could be filed but why bother when information will not be provided, and the request ignored. Even if done wrong or improperly, who would care?

It is not the public's problem that you cannot figure out what to do with requests for information that should exist based on public meeting information and common sense. The Michigan Freedom of Information Act is well established in the State of Michigan. Your inability to follow the law and provide information to the public is a willful and intentional violation of that law.

I have not lived here that long. I moved here thinking Lake Orion had great potential. It does but the dishonesty and disregard for the law and public have convinced me that this is probably not the place I want to be.

Cory Johnston
Village of Lake Orion