



Statement from New Rochelle Public Library Board of Trustees regarding Freedom of Information Law (“FOIL”) Request from the Hudson Valley Justice Center (“HVJC”)

On March 24, 2018, the Board of the New Rochelle Public Library received a FOIL request from the HVJC. In summary, the FOIL request asked the Board to provide the HVJC with any communications or documents from 2014 onward:

- Between the Board and RDRXR, RXR or its agents in relation to the potential redevelopment of the New Rochelle Public Library located at 1 Library Plaza, New Rochelle, New York (“Library”)
- Between the Board and the City of New Rochelle or its agents in relation to the potential redevelopment of the Library
- Between the City of New Rochelle or its agents in relation to the appointment of trustees to fill unexpired terms due to Board member resignations
- Regarding the process for appointment of trustees to fill unexpired terms due to Board member resignations

In response to the FOIL request the Board has provided the HVJC with approximately 700 pages of documents and email communications.

The Trustees understand and appreciate the interest the New Rochelle community has in any future plans related to the New Rochelle Public Library. It is for this reason that the Board is making the requested documents available below.

As the trustees have maintained over the years, and have discussed at board meetings, the documents show that the Board has been in communication with RDRXR and RXR over the last several years regarding exploration of potential redevelopment opportunities. The communications make clear what the Board has previously stated, specifically that no agreement with RDRXR, RXR or its agents to explore redevelopment has been reached at this time. Further, the communications show that the Board has engaged in these discussions with the sole goal of enhancing the Library for the benefit of the residents of the City of New Rochelle.

In relation to the portion of the FOIL request pertaining to the appointment of Board trustees to fill unexpired terms, the documents show that when a trustee has resigned there has been an open and fair process to select a new Trustee. Specifically, upon each resignation the Board has made a public appeal for qualified candidates and then interviewed all applicants. While not required by law, the Trustees feel soliciting the public for potential trustees provides for an inclusive and fair process.

All decisions to appoint trustees to the Board have been made independently by the Board.

The Trustees are committed to transparency. As there are developments, we will continue to inform the public. We encourage members of the public to attend our monthly meeting in the Ossie Davis Theatre at the Library. Additionally, all of our meetings can be viewed here on our website and on the New Rochelle School District public access channel (channel 77 on Optimum and channel 30 on Verizon FIOS).

Click on these links to view PDF files of the documents:

[FOIL Request from the Hudson Valley Justice Center](#)

Response from the NRPL Board of Trustees:

[Part 1](#)

[Part 3](#)

[Part 5](#)

[Part 7](#)

[Part 2](#)

[Part 4](#)

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