

Notification of Public Records Request for Thurston County Employee Pay Data

Thurston County has received a public records request on behalf of the Tacoma News Tribune for certain employee pay data.

On June 30, 2020, Thurston County received a public records request (#P007412-063020) from Ted Newman with the Tacoma News Tribune.

Specifically, they requested:

Pursuant to the state open records law RCW secs. 42.56.001 to 42.56.902, I write on behalf of The News Tribune to request a copy of Thurston County's employee pay data. Specifically, we seek a database or databases that include employees' first and last names, position/title, department, dates of hire and separation, FTE status, base pay, overtime pay and total pay for 2019. We do not seek fields containing Social Security numbers, home addresses, withholding information, dates of birth, or phone numbers.

We would like the information in electronic form, preferably Excel or delimiter-separated value text format.

A copy of the complete request is available below.

This notice is being posted to comply with new language in the Public Records Act, RCW 42.56.250(12), which states that employers must provide notice to an employee and any union representing the employee if a request for records seeks information found exclusively in an employee payroll file. Thurston County is notifying each of the unions representing Thurston County employees by separate correspondence. Additionally, Thurston County is sending a notification to Thurston County employees by email.

Pursuant to RCW 42.56.540, a person/entity named in the record or to whom the record specifically pertains may file a lawsuit seeking to enjoin [stop] the release of any specific public record, and the Superior Court may issue an order stopping release of the record if it determines withholding the record is appropriate under the law.

To the extent the requested records exist, Thurston County intends to release to the requester those records or portions of records which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act, chapter 42.56 RCW. Therefore, pursuant to RCW 42.56.250, the purpose of this notice is to provide notification of the pending disclosure of the above-referenced documents and to give an opportunity to seek to enjoin [stop] disclosure under RCW 42.56.540. Disclosure of these records will occur on August 14, 2020, absent our receipt of a court order enjoining [stopping] disclosure under RCW 42.56.540.

If you obtain an injunction, you must provide a copy of a signed court order enjoining release of the records to the Thurston County Public Records Officer, Michael Fulmer, prior to close of business on August 13, 2020. In addition, you must ensure that all necessary parties (including the requestor) have been joined in the court case. Mr. Fulmer can be reached at this [email address](#), or by telephone at (360) 754-4998.

Public Records Request (P007412-063020)

▼ Public Records Request Details

Are you seeking Thurston County Building Development Center records (generally includes permitting, land use, building, septic, code compliance, fire marshal, hazardous & solid waste, and other related files):

Are you seeking Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office records?:

Please describe the records you are seeking in as much detail as possible: June 30, 2020

Pursuant to the state open records law RCW secs. 42.56.001 to 42.56.902, I write on behalf of The News Tribune to request a copy of Thurston County's employee pay data. Specifically, we seek a database or databases that include employees' first and last names, position/title, department, dates of hire and separation, FTE status, base pay, overtime pay and total pay for 2019. We do not seek fields containing Social Security numbers, home addresses, withholding information, dates of birth, or phone numbers.

We would like the information in electronic form, preferably Excel or delimiter-separated value text format. We'd encourage you to email them to the address below.

As provided by the open records law, we request your response within five business days.

If you choose to deny this request, please provide a written explanation for the denial including a reference to the specific statutory exemption(s) upon which you rely. Also, please provide all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material.

If your office does not maintain these public records, please let me know who does and include the proper custodian's name and address.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need further information. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
Ted Newman
The News Tribune
253-597-8447
ted.newman@thenewstribune.com

Preferred Method to Receive Records: Electronic via Request Center

> Clarifications

> Exemptions

> State Reporting Bill

> Notes

> Message History

> Request Details
