



City & Borough of Wrangell Request for Public Records

REQUESTOR: *Please identify yourself and tell us how to notify you regarding this request.*

Name _____ Telephone _____ Fax _____

Address _____ Email _____

INFORMATION REQUESTED: *Identify and describe the documents you seek. Be specific and include dates and titles, if known. Charges for copying or staff time may apply.*

I request to inspect the following documents or files:

I request copies of the following documents or files:

I understand that I may be required to pay a fee for duplication. I further understand that my request may be subject to payment of personnel costs for search and copy tasks per AS 40.25.110. This cost may be required in advance.

CERTIFICATE OF LITIGATION AFFILIATION: I hereby certify that (check one) I AM I AM NOT

involved in litigation, in a judicial or administrative forum, with the City & Borough of Wrangell or another public agency to which the requested record is relevant; or acting on behalf of or otherwise representing any person who is involved in litigation with the City & Borough of Wrangell or another public agency to which the requested record is relevant.

Requestor's Signature

Date

For Office Use Only:

Request Received By: _____ **Date & Time:** _____

Requestor Notified By: _____ **Date & Time:** _____

Copies: \$0.25 (cents) per page x _____ no. pages = \$ _____
Certified Copies: \$1.00 per page x _____ no. pages = \$ _____

Documents Picked Up By: _____ **Date & Time:** _____

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

PUBLIC INFORMATION REQUESTS

The City & Borough of Wrangell is required by state law to provide for the inspection and copying of public records, except as provided by other public disclosure provisions of municipal, state or federal law. Providing information is an important function of the borough. The intent of the law is to promote public access to information about the conduct of government at all levels, while at the same time protecting an individual's right to privacy. Certain documents are exempt from public disclosure or are first subject to a legal or confidentiality review. The Borough Clerk is the Records Manager for the City & Borough of Wrangell and may deny, at his/her discretion, a request for inspection of records. An appeal to a request denial may be made in writing to the Borough Manager. Accessible, onsite records are open for public inspection or copying during regular office hours although some requests may require office staff time. Additionally, archived records are located offsite and will require staff time for retrieval and research. Therefore, the Borough has established the following policy:

Request Form

Requests for public records are not required by law to be in writing. However, the borough routinely requests that requests for information research, or copies of documents or audio recordings, be made in writing on a form provided by the borough in order to:

- a. provide the requestor with a copy of what was requested for their records;
- b. provide accurate information to the various borough departments which may maintain records responsive to the request so that the specific documents may be clearly understood and to minimize the risk of errors in translations; and
- c. a written, dated request provides helpful reference in the event that questions develop as to either the timing of the request or whether the requested documents fall within one of the disclosure exceptions.

Reasonable Length of Time

The borough office staff shall have a reasonable length of time to provide requested information or copies. The length of time to provide information or copies will be dependent on the amount and detail in the information requested, the need for a legal or confidentiality review, and the current work load of the staff. Within ten (10) business days after the written request is received, the borough will either

- Provide the record,
- Acknowledge receipt of the request and provide a reasonable estimate of the time required to respond,
- Request clarification, or
- Deny the request.

If the request is denied, the borough will respond in writing, cite the pertinent legal exemption, and explain how the exemption applies to the request.

Fees

The Borough will provide copies of records upon request at the expense of the person making the request. The costs will be according to the Borough's most current posted fee schedule. The Borough may establish flat-rate costs to be charged instead of a per-page fee for reports, maps, specifications, other similar bound or produced information, or information requiring significant or substantial research time. The Borough Manager or Borough Clerk may waive copy charges for documents distributed as general public information or may approve reduced rates for special or unusual circumstances.

Open Records Act - *This is the State law on public records. Exceptions are listed in AS 40.25.120.*

AS 40.25.110. Public Records Open to Inspection and Copying; Fees.

(a) Unless specifically provided otherwise, the public records of all public agencies are open to inspection by the public under reasonable rules during regular office hours. The public officer having the custody of public records shall give on request and payment of the fee established under this section or AS 40.25.115 a certified copy of the public record.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the fee for copying public records may not exceed the standard unit cost of duplication established by the public agency.

(c) If the production of records for one requester in a calendar month exceeds five person-hours, the public agency shall require the requester to pay the personnel costs required during the month to complete the search and copying tasks. The personnel costs may not exceed the actual salary and benefit costs for the personnel time required to perform the search and copying tasks. The requester shall pay the fee before the records are disclosed, and the public agency may require payment in advance of the search.

(d) A public agency may reduce or waive a fee when the public agency determines that the reduction or waiver is in the public interest. Fee reductions and waivers shall be uniformly applied among persons who are similarly situated. A public agency may waive a fee of \$5 or less if the fee is less than the cost to the public agency to arrange for payment.

AS 40.25.122. Litigation Disclosure.

A public record that is subject to disclosure and copying under AS 40.25.110 - 40.25.120 remains a public record subject to disclosure and copying even if the record is used for, included in, or relevant to litigation, including law enforcement proceedings, involving a public agency, except that with respect to a person involved in litigation, the records sought shall be disclosed in accordance with the rules of procedure applicable in a court or an administrative adjudication. In this section, "involved in litigation" means a party to litigation or representing a party to litigation, including obtaining public records for the party.