

FALCON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING RECORDS REQUESTS

When responding to a records request, the Falcon Fire Protection District (“District”) shall make every effort to respond within three working days as required by § 24-72-203(3)(b), C.R.S. The District can issue up to a seven-working-day extension if it finds extenuating circumstances exist, as described in § 24-72-203(3)(b), C.R.S. A request is received by the District the day an e-mail or letter containing a request from the requestor is opened. The three working-day response time begins the first working day following receipt of the request. A request received after 4:00 p.m. or any day the District is officially closed will be considered received as of the following working day.

Policy on Responding to Open Records Request:

The following are general policies concerning the release of records:

(a) All public records of the District shall be open for inspection at the times designated herein, unless prohibited by the provisions of Colorado Open Records Act (“CORA”) or policies adopted by the Board in conformance with CORA.

(b) Every request to inspect and/or copy any District record (a “Records Request”) shall be submitted to the District’s Fire Chief (the “Official Custodian”) in writing and be specific as to the information desired. A Records Request form is available from the District’s website. If not submitted to the Official Custodian, any District employee or Board Member that receives the Records Request shall immediately send the Records Request to the Official Custodian.

(c) If any question arises as to the propriety of fully complying with a Records Request, the Official Custodian shall immediately forward it to the District’s legal counsel.

(d) The District’s legal counsel shall determine the District’s obligations under the applicable Federal and/or State law(s). If the District is permitted to make records available for inspection in whole or in part, the District’s legal counsel will so notify the District’s Official Custodian, who will assemble the disclosable requested documents for inspection and/or copying in accordance with applicable Federal or State law.

(e) If the District’s legal counsel determines the District is not permitted by Federal or State law to make records available for inspection in whole or in part, legal counsel shall provide a written response to the party submitting the Records Request stating the legal basis upon which the Records Request in whole or in part is being denied

(f) Following the denial of a request for record, upon receipt of the required written notice from the requesting individual that he or she will seek relief from the District Court, the Official Custodian will attempt to meet in-person or speak by telephone with the requesting individual. District personnel are encouraged to utilize all possible means to attempt to resolve the dispute during this time period and will provide a written summary of the District’s position at the end of that period to the requestor and to the District’s Board of Directors. No phone or in-person

conference is required if the written notice indicates that the requestor needs access to the record on an expedited basis.

(g) Pursuant to CORA, all records must be made available for inspection within three (3) working days from the date of the Official Custodian's receipt of the request, unless extenuating circumstances exist. The deadline may be extended by seven (7) working days if extenuating circumstances exist and the requesting party is notified of the delay within three (3) working days of the Official Custodian's receipt of the request. The Official Custodian may set the time during regular office hours and the place for records to be inspected and require that the Official Custodian or a delegated employee be present while the records are examined.

(h) A public record stored in a digital format that is neither searchable nor sortable will be provided in a digital format. A public record stored in a digital format that is searchable and/or sortable will be provided in such digital format, unless (1) the public record is in a searchable or sortable format and producing the record in the requested format would violate the terms of any copyright or licensing agreement between the District and a third party; (2) producing the record would result in the release of a third party's proprietary information; (3) after making reasonable inquiries, it is not technologically or practically feasible to provide a copy of the record in a searchable or sortable format, or (4) if the Official Custodian would be required to purchase software or create additional programming functionality in its existing software to remove the information. Altering an existing digital public record, or excising fields of information that the Official Custodian is either required or permitted to withhold under this subsection, does not constitute the creation of a new public record.

(i) The Custodian may charge the following fees (collectively, the "Fees") for responding to a Records Request, pursuant to §24-72-205, C.R.S., as may be amended:

(i) Printouts, photographs, and copies, when requested, will be provided at a cost of twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per standard page, and at the actual costs of production for any non-standard page (the "Copying Fee"). A standard page shall mean an 8.5-inch by 11-inch black and white copy.

(ii) When it is impractical to make the copy, printout, or photograph of the requested record at the place where the record is kept, the Official Custodian may allow arrangements to be made for the copy, printout, or photograph to be made at other facilities and the cost of providing the requested records will be paid by the person making the request (the "Outside Copying Fee").

(iii) If a copy, printout or photograph of a public record is necessary or requested to be provided in a format other than a standard page, the costs will be assessed at the actual cost of production (the "Production Fee").

(iv) If data must be manipulated in order to generate a record in a form not otherwise used by the District, such data manipulation will be assessed at the actual costs to the District (the "Manipulation Fee"); however, the District is in no way obligated to generate a record that is not otherwise kept, made, or maintained by the District.

(v) The cost for transmitting the requested records will be charged at the actual cost of such delivery (the “Transmission Fee”). Transmission Fees will not be charged for transmitting any record via electronic mail, when requested.

(vi) When the location or existence of specific documents must be researched and the documents must be retrieved, sorted or reviewed for applicability to the request, and such process requires more than one (1) hour of staff time, the Custodian may charge a research and retrieval fee not to exceed thirty dollars (\$30.00) per hour (the “Research and Retrieval Fee”).

(vii) If any requested records are protected by a privilege (for example, but not limited to, the work product or attorney-client privileges) the District may charge the actual costs of creating a privilege log identifying the privileged records (the “Privilege Fee”). If legal assistance or review is necessary to create the privilege log, the Privilege Fee may include the actual costs for such legal assistance.

(j) If the estimated Fees to produce the records will exceed \$50, the District may require a 50% deposit of the estimated Fees prior to commencing work to produce the records. Payment of the remainder of the Fees, including all actual costs exceeding the estimated amount, must be made prior to the time of inspection or release of the final work product or copies.

(k) No person shall be permitted to inspect or copy any records of the District if, in the opinion of the Official Custodian after consultation with the District’s legal counsel, such inspection or copying would come within the prohibition of one or more exemptions set forth in CORA.