

Email: [REDACTED]

March 18, 2021

CONFIDENTIAL



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Access to Information Request #2021-017 – Assessor Records

This is further to your access to information request received by the City on March 4, 2021 quoted as follows:

“Verbatim and in the original format – copies of the information contained with databases and syntax stored (the *Records*) by the Assessor.

The records were previously created and stored digitally for the purpose of developing the 2021 assessments for all properties *other than* single family residential or condominium properties.

It is understood that the Assessor uses a program or programs [eg SPSS, NCSS, R, Excel, etc.] outside the CAMA system to model/develop/test variables through the specification and calibration of either an additive, multiplicative, or hybrid models in addition to other simplified methods such as stratification with or without land size multipliers or the like.

The Records do not include personal or financial information provided to the Assessor through section 171 of the Cities Act and is not subject to the requirements within.”

Property Assessment Services:

The information request has been broken down into the following types of requested information.

1. Information the assessor gathers from property owners through section 171 of *The Cities Act*;
2. Information related to the syntax and proprietary formulas, computer programming source code, etc.;

3. Information gathered by the assessor through inspection including measurements and property characteristics.

1. Information gathered from property owners:

*The Local Authority Freedom of Information Act (LA FOIP) does not apply to information an assessor gathers as part of their work under section 171 of The Cities Act. Section 8 of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Regulations (LA FOIP Regulations) states:*

*Confidentiality provisions in other enactments*

*s8.1 For the purposes of clause s22(3)(a.1) of the Act [section saying LA FOIP trumps disclosure requirements in other acts], the following are prescribed as provisions to which subsection 22(1) of the Act [section describing personal information and includes information “gathered for the purpose of collecting tax”] does not apply:*

*(a) subsections 171(5) and (6) and sections 201 and 202 of The Cities Act;*

The information collected by the assessor (rent roll, lease space details) includes personal and confidential information which is stored in the City data bases. Section 171 of the *Cities Act* is exempt in accordance with section 8 of the LA FOIP Regulations.

2. Information included in the Syntax and proprietary computer programming codes:

LA FOIP defines a “record” for the purpose of the act as:

*subsection 2(j) “**record**” means a record of information in any form and includes information that is written, photographed, recorded or stored in any manner, but does not include computer programs or other mechanisms that produce records;*

You are requesting to access the syntax and other related computer programs used in the establishment of valuation models. This information is considered to be an integral part of the valuation model and is exempt from disclosure as part of the definition of a record in LA FOIP.

3. Information the Assessor gathered through observation / inspection of properties

The information gathered by an assessor identifying property measurements and/or property characteristics may be disclosed if the information does not include personal or confidential information.

The City of Regina, Administrative Bylaw no. 2003-69, Schedule B, provides an individual the opportunity to acquire property assessment information. The fees and charges for this information are pursuant to section 264 of *The Cities Act*. The requested information can be released free of charge when the request is made by the owner of a residential property, but in most other situations, a fee for property information is applicable.

If you require further information regarding Property Assessment Services please contact Steve Ward, City Assessor at 306-552-9543 or by email at [sward@regina.ca](mailto:sward@regina.ca).

If you wish to exercise your right to request a review of this decision, you may complete a Request for Review form and forward it to the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner within one year of this notice. You may contact the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner at 306-787-8350.

Responses to requests may be published on the Regina Open Data website at the City's discretion. All information/data is handled in accordance with LA FOIP. Your identity as the applicant is protected. Published requests will be available on the Open Data website at <http://open.regina.ca/> a minimum of three business days following release to you.

If you have any questions related to this access to information request, please contact Cindy Howden at 306 – 777-7263 or by email at [lafoip@regina.ca](mailto:lafoip@regina.ca).

Yours truly,



Jim Nicol  
City Clerk

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