

April 20, 2011

**VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL**

Dr. Joe Porto  
Superintendent  
Avoca School District 37  
2921 Illinois Road  
Wilmette IL 60091  
e-mail: [portoj@avoca37.org](mailto:portoj@avoca37.org)

**Re: FOIA Request regarding 911 service calls**

Dear Dr. Porto:

This is a Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request for the following records<sup>1</sup> regarding internet filtering software used at the Avoca School District 37. 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.* The time limit on this request is 2008 to the present.

1. The district's use of internet filtering software to block websites that fall into the category of "LGBT," "Gay or Lesbian or Bisexual Interest," "Alternative Lifestyles," "Social Issues," or any similar category at high schools in the district;
2. The district's use of internet filter software to block the following websites:
  - a. Day of Silence: <http://dayofsilence.org>
  - b. It Gets Better Project: <http://itgetsbetter.org/>
  - c. The Trevor Project: <http://thetrevorproject.org/>
  - d. GSA Network: <http://gsanetwork.org/>
  - e. Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network: <http://glsen.org/>
3. Any requests to block or unblock specific websites and the resolution of such requests;

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<sup>1</sup> The term "records" as used herein includes, but is not limited to, all documents or communications of any kind preserved in electronic or written form, including but not limited to, correspondence, documents, data, videotapes, audiotapes, faxes, files, guidance, guidelines, evaluations, instructions, analyses, memoranda, agreements, notes, orders, policies, procedures, protocols, reports, audits, studies, inquiries, examinations, inspections, investigations, probes, surveys, rules, technical manuals, technical specifications, training manuals, and/or computer files and databases.

4. Which categories of websites were selected to be blocked pursuant to the default configuration of the internet filtering software (i.e. the configuration in place at the time the software was initially installed);
5. Who made the decision to activate the filter for “LGBT,” “Gay or Lesbian or Bisexual Interest,” “Alternative Lifestyles,” “Social Issues,” or any similar filter category, when the decision was made, and any communications concerning that decision;
6. The internet filtering provider(s)’ knowledge that the filter for “LGBT,” “Gay or Lesbian or Bisexual Interest,” “Alternative Lifestyles,” “Social Issues,” or any similar filter category had been (or would be) enabled on the district’s internet filtering software;
7. Communications between the internet filtering provider(s) and any representative or agent of the district concerning which categories of websites had been (or would be) blocked;
8. Contracts and agreements, including service and maintenance agreements, between the internet filtering provider(s) and any representative or agent of the district.
9. Policy documents<sup>2</sup> with respect to the district’s use of internet filtering software.

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Please send the requested materials to:      John Knight  
Roger Baldwin Foundation of ACLU, Inc.  
180 N. Michigan Avenue  
Suite 2300  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1287

As you know, the Illinois FOIA requires that you make available for inspection and copying all public records, except certain exempt records, within five working days of receipt of a written request.

If you determine that portions of the requested records are exempt from the Act, we expect that you will delete such exempted material and send copies of the remaining non-exempt material within five working days. Also, if all or any part of this request is denied, please provide in writing the specific exemption(s) under the Act on which you rely to withhold the records.

We are prepared to pay reasonable copying costs for reproducing the requested materials, but request that you waive any such fees under the provision of FOIA that authorizes you to waive copying fees when release of requested information is “in the public interest.” In compliance with section 6(b) of the amended FOIA, I represent to you that the documents are sought to

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<sup>2</sup> The term “policy documents” as used herein includes, but is not limited to, all general orders, special orders, bulletins, notices, directives, pronouncements, forms, memoranda, legal standards, rules, and regulations.

determine information concerning the legal rights of the general public and this request is not for the purpose of personal or commercial benefit. Accordingly, a waiver of fees is in the public interest as defined by section 6(b).

If you deny the request for waiver, please notify me before compiling records for which the copying charge will exceed \$50.00 so that we can discuss narrowing the request to cover only the information I seek.

Please contact me at 312/201-9740 ext. 335 or at [jknight@aclu-il.org](mailto:jknight@aclu-il.org), if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Knight", is positioned above the printed name.

John Knight