



April 6, 2018

Dear FOIA officer,

This is a request for public records related to the collection of evaded tolls (debt collection) for the Illinois Tollway. Specifically, I am seeking the following records:

- Copies of settlement guidelines that debt collection firms must follow, showing the amounts firms are allowed to write off in reaching settlements with debtors. Please provide current settlement guidelines and any earlier guidelines if modifications have been made since 2014.
- Copies of any requests and or approvals from the Tollway and the Attorney General's Office for deviations from the settlement guidelines since 2014.
- Records sufficient to all litigation filed by the Tollway or its debt collection firms against debtors (for wage garnishment or other, etc) since 2016. Please include case numbers, debtors' names, amount due in tolls, penalties and legal fees, and court.

I am also seeking the following data:

- Account data for the more than \$1 billion in outstanding debt from evaded tolls showing all available fields that would not disclose private information exempt from FOIA, including but not limited to ZIP code of last recorded address of debtor; date the account was established; amount due in unpaid tolls; amount due in late penalties or other fees; status of the account, including whether it is in collections or bankruptcy.

Please provide the data in an electronic format(for e.g. .csv, .dat, .sql, .xlsx) by e-mail attachment if available, DropBox or CD-ROM if not. Please provide a data dictionary for all provided fields. I am happy to talk with somebody familiar with this dataset – or ask one of my data reporter colleagues to hop on a call -- about modifying this request to make it easier to extract.

ProPublica Illinois is a nonprofit investigative news organization. This request is made as part of news gathering and not for commercial use, so I am requesting a fee waiver. Disclosure of this information is in the public interest and is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations of an important government institution. However, in the event that there are fees, please inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request.

Thank you in advance for your help. I look forward to receiving your response to this request.

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