FOIA Request – Records Concerning Landon “Rudy” Rudolph and Lashly & Baer Attorney Packet

From: Monster News newsdesk@pigmonster.online
To: foia@cityofcarmi.com
Date: November 2, 2026, 2:21 PM

RELATED MONSTER NEWS ARTICLE: Introducing Rudy, the Rabble-Rouser of Carmi, Illinois

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq., Monster News requests electronic copies of the following existing public records:

1. FOIA Requests Submitted by Landon “Rudy” Rudolph

All FOIA requests submitted to the City of Carmi by Landon “Rudy” Rudolph, or submitted on his behalf, during the two-year period preceding the date of this request and continuing until this request has been fulfilled.

This includes the original requests, related correspondence, acknowledgments, extension notices, denials, responses, records of production, and any other communications or documents concerning the City's handling of those requests.

2. Records Concerning the September 15, 2026 Lashly & Baer Attorney Packet

All existing records responsive to the October 21, 2026 FOIA request submitted by Landon “Rudy” Rudolph concerning the materials provided to Carmi City Council members before the September 15, 2026 meeting and the consideration of the August 31 special-counsel agreement with Lashly & Baer, P.C.

This includes:

- The complete attorney packet provided or made available to aldermen, including all attachments, drafts, versions, agreements, pricing schedules, biographies, firm profiles, cover letters, memoranda, recommendations and introductory materials.
- Records identifying who prepared, reviewed, approved, transmitted or distributed the packet, which aldermen received it, and the dates and methods of distribution.
- Records documenting how Lashly & Baer and its attorneys were introduced or described to council members, including information about the firm's background, qualifications, office locations and municipal representation.
- Pre-vote correspondence, emails, text messages, memoranda, meeting notes and other existing communications concerning the firm's selection, recommendation, agreement, proposed duration, compensation, ratification or anticipated council action.
- Responsive records maintained by City officials, employees, council members, the City Attorney or other persons performing governmental functions on behalf of the City, to the extent those records are subject to FOIA.

3. Production and Exemptions

Please provide the records electronically by email or electronic download.

4. Request for Fee Waiver – Public Interest

Monster News requests a waiver of all fees associated with this request pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/6(c).

Disclosure of these records is in the public interest because the requested information concerns the City's handling of public-records requests, the transparency of municipal government, and the circumstances surrounding the selection and engagement of outside legal counsel using public resources.

Monster News intends to use the information for public reporting and dissemination to the community. The requested records will help inform the public about the City's compliance with its obligations under FOIA and the transparency of its governmental decision-making.

Disclosure is not being sought for commercial benefit or private gain. Rather, the purpose is to provide information to the public concerning the conduct of local government and matters of legitimate public concern.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the City waive all applicable fees. If the City declines to grant the waiver, please notify us in advance of incurring any charges and provide an itemized estimate.

5. Closing

If any portion of a requested record is claimed to be exempt, please redact only the exempt material and release all reasonably segregable nonexempt portions. Please identify the specific statutory basis for each withholding and provide the explanation required by 5 ILCS 140/9.

If the City determines that any portion of this request requires clarification, please contact me promptly.

This request seeks existing public records and does not ask the City to create new records or answer questions.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Monster News
Editorial Team
newsdesk@pigmonster.online
Monster Newsroom

Public copy: BCC recipient information has been omitted to protect private email addresses. The FOIA request text is otherwise reproduced.