



# City of Biddeford, Maine

205 Main Street  
Biddeford, Maine 04005

## Request for Public Information

Well-informed citizenry is a goal of all public entities. Being well-informed not only includes that every person has access to public records within the possession of the City of Biddeford but that the information is accurate. To achieve this goal, this form will serve that a person requesting public records shall receive them in compliance with their rights under the law (1 MRSA § 401, et.seq.) and allow for the smooth functioning of governmental departments.

Definitions of 'public record' can be found in 1 MRSA § 402(3). The City is prohibited by law, however, from releasing information classified as confidential under state or federal law. Any person requesting information is requested to provide the following information:

Name: Heather Walker Date of Request: 4/28/18  
Address: 10 Hammond St Apt 2 Sanford, ME 04073

Phone number: 207-641-900€

Email Address: Sanfordrose3309@gmail.com

Description of record(s) being requested:

Any and all emails or other documents sent by or received by city employees, volunteers, or other agents in the year 2017 or in the months January, February, March of 2018 that:

- Relate to the Journey House recovery house formerly located at 45 Hill St., Apt. 101, Biddeford, ME *and/or*
- contain the words "Journey House", "45 Hill", "recovery house", "sober house", or "Jesse Harvey" *and/or*
- Mention the Supreme Court cases: City of Edmonds, WA v. Oxford House, Inc or Tsombanidis v. City of West Haven, CT

The City posts all public FOAA requests and their responses on the City website so that all members of the public will benefit from any requests. This practice also saves costs for both the person requesting the information as well as the City. You will be contacted to let you know when the information has been posted. If your request has been denied, you will be notified in writing of the denial and reason for the denial. Denials may be appealed to the Maine Superior Court.

Requests for copies of documents will be subject to a fee of \$0.50 per page. Any request(s) that are expected to exceed two hours of staff time in preparing a response, a fee of \$15 per hour will be billed after the first two hours of staff time per request. This fee is collected to cover the actual cost of searching for, retrieving and compiling the requested public record. Compiling the public record includes reviewing and redacting confidential information. A deposit for the estimated time in excess of two hours will be required. Any unused funds will be refunded. If the time frame exceeds the estimate, the information will not be released until the balance of the payment is received by the City. If you have any questions, please contact the City Manager's office (207-284-9313).

**PLEASE EMAIL TO:**

To: Biddeford City Manager James Bennett <jbennett@biddefordmaine.org>  
Cc: Biddeford City Attorney Keith Jacques <krj@woodedlaw.com>

Pursuant to the Maine Freedom of Access Act § 402 et seq., I hereby make the following Freedom of Information Act / FOAA request:

Any and all emails or other documents sent by or received by city employees, volunteers, or other agents in the year 2017 or in the months January, February, March, or April of 2018 that:

- Relate in any way to the Journey House recovery house formerly located at 45 Hill St., Apt. 101, Biddeford, ME *and/or*
- contain the words "Journey House", "45 Hill", "recovery house", "sober house", *and/or* "Jesse Harvey" *and/or*
- Mention the Supreme Court cases: City of Edmonds, WA v. Oxford House, Inc. *and/or* Tsombanidis v. City of West Haven, CT

I am requesting the opportunity to inspect:

- The documents and emails and, if appropriate, any applicable metadata
- Any responses to those documents or emails
- Any other public records associated with the creation of, sending of, response to or discussion about those documents or emails

Please extend this search to include any files that may have been deleted. If you find any public records were destructed, I humbly request an investigation be conducted to understand what happened and how to prevent it in the future.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$100. However, I would also like to request a waiver of all fees in that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the **city's reasonable accommodation process for individuals living with Substance Use Disorder who seek recovery-oriented housing**. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes.

I have attached the relevant form. If you intend to deny this request, I will expect to hear from you within the five business days mandated by law. Also, if you expect a significant delay in responding to this request, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

Thank you.  
Heather Walker