

At the last SD34 Board meeting, comments were made to the effect that the Village is delaying the lawsuit filed by SD34 by failing to provide documents on a timely basis. While it is true that the Village has not yet provided all of the documents requested by SD34 to the School District, the School District failed to advise residents that the reason for this is due to the excessive and, in the Village's opinion, unnecessary requests for documents and information. For example, the School District has requested documents not only from the Village, but also from the Village's TIF consultant and public relations firm. The number of pages of documents that need to be reviewed is approximately 100,000. In addition, the School District, its Board members and officials, as well as members of the public, have submitted over 200 FOIA requests to the Village. Each FOIA request requires Village staff to drop what they are doing and respond to the FOIA, since the turnaround time for a FOIA response is 5 days. In fact, the Village just received today another seven part FOIA request submitted by a member of the School Board.

The sheer volume of document requests, made through both the litigation process as well as by FOIA requests, continues to tie up staff time and causes more work for the Village Attorney and Village consultants. By the way, it is important to note that many of these requests will not assist the School District in its lawsuit against the Village. While there is nothing illegal about what the School District, its Board members and officials are doing, it is unreasonable for the School District to claim that the Village is somehow delaying the lawsuit. All the School District is doing is driving up the costs to Village residents, including its own constituents. The Village has no reason to delay the lawsuit. In fact, the Village has every reason to resolve the lawsuit as quickly as possible. The School District, on the other hand, has publicly stated that it can delay the lawsuit for years if it chooses to do so. The residents of the Village need to understand that the Village and its staff is working as quickly as possible to respond to the School District's discovery requests while simultaneously responding to the multitude of FOIA requests submitted by the School District, its Board members and officials. The Village is confident that it will provide all of the requested documents on or before the Court ordered date of compliance which is February 15th and stand ready to report compliance to the Court on the February 22nd court date.