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September 26, 2008

VIA REGULAR AND CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Riccardo A. Mora
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: Ridgewood High School #234, Freedom of Information Act Requests

Dear Mr. Mora,

Please be advised that we have been retained by Ridgewood High School District #234 ("District") with respect to the many Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA" or "Act") requests propounded by you upon the District. We believe the nature of these multiple, continuing and repetitive FOIA requests violates the parameters of the Act and is inconsistent with the purpose of the Act.

As you know, FOIA is designed to serve the public interest. The Act is not intended to "disrupt the duly-undertaken work of any public body." Further, the Act is not intended to be used for purposes of furthering personal gain. See 5 ILCS 140/1.

We believe that your numerous FOIA requests demonstrate that you are mis-using FOIA as a vehicle to address personal issues rather than the public interest. The absence of a public interest and an intent to disrupt the District is evident in the nature of the numerous and repetitive FOIA requests that you have propounded upon the District. Since February 12, 2008, you have issued twenty-one (21) FOIA requests to the District. Your most recent requests, issued on September 1 and 15, have burdened the District by requiring a District employee to spend more than twenty (20) hours to compile responsive documents. Your conduct has forced the District to expend an inordinate amount of financial resources derived from taxpayer monies to respond to your quest to satisfy some personal need.

The use of FOIA to further a personal rather than public need is clearly an abuse of the Act. While the Act imposes a number of obligations upon a public body to respond to a FOIA request, those making a FOIA request must also comply with the purposes of the Act. The District's obligations to comply with the Act extend insofar as those that

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request information under FOIA adhere to the requirement of acting in the public interest as defined in the Act.

We are writing at this time to make you aware that we will work closely with the District to scrutinize any future FOIA requests propounded by you upon the District to insure they are within the spirit of the Act. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

ROBBINS, SCHWARTZ, NICHOLAS,
LIFTON & TAYLOR, LTD.

By: Camille Cribaro-Mello
Camille Cribaro-Mello

cc: Dr. Robert Lupo, Superintendent
Joseph J. Perkoski, Esq.