

Attorney General of Missouri Andrew Bailey

March 26, 2024

Cindy Reeds Ormsby Attorney For Hazelwood School District 130 S. Bemiston Avenue, Suite 200 St. Louis, MO 63105 Sent via email: COrmsby@chgolaw.com

Dear Ms. Ormsby:

I write in response to your letter declining to process a clear request for records under Chapter 610 of Missouri's statutes as well as to correct your misunderstanding about the nature of my office's investigation.

In your letter, you allege "inaccuracies" concerning the student fight that occurred earlier this month that resulted in serious injuries to a Hazelwood East High School student. My letter cited several sources for information, including publicly-available reporting and the District's own policies. The most egregious "error" you identify is an incorrect date reference that was reported in local media. As with any investigation, my office seeks to uncover facts surrounding the incident at issue. An incident you openly acknowledge involved Hazelwood East students.

You may not knowingly and purposefully refuse to comply with Chapter 610 simply because you disagree with this investigation. Chapter 610 requires a public governmental body, like Hazelwood School District and its Board of Education, to turn over records or provide a three-day letter explaining why you are not disclosing the requested documents. My request is an unmistakable Chapter 610 request. I sent the letter to the District's custodian of records and specifically referenced Chapter 610. You must respond to my records request immediately, no later than tomorrow, March 27th, at 5:00 p.m.

Instead of directing your ire at a date reference or making ad hominem attacks, you should follow Missouri law and do so immediately.

Sincerely,

ANDREW BAILEY

Missouri Attorney General

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