

## Betsy

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**From:** Robert Freeman [RFreeman@dos.state.ny.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 01, 2006 12:43 PM  
**To:** betsy@parentadvocates.org  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Your request regarding notes taken about the RossCharter School Application

Dear Ms. Combier:

This office has no policy or procedure concerning the preparation of an "expedited opinion." As a general matter and to be fair, we respond to requests for opinions in the order in which they are received. In consideration of our backlog, it is expected that an opinion can be prepared in 4 to 6 weeks.

Robert J. Freeman  
Executive Director  
NYS Committee on Open Government  
41 State Street  
Albany, NY 12231  
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(518) 474-1927 - Fax  
Website - [www.dos.state.ny.us/coog/coogwww.html](http://www.dos.state.ny.us/coog/coogwww.html)

>>> "Betsy" <betsy@parentadvocates.org> 4/29/2006 2:09:51 AM >>>  
Parentadvocates.org

Betsy Combier, Editor

betsy@parentadvocates.org

April 29, 2006

Dear Mr. Freeman,

I request an expedited opinion on the matter outlined below.

On April 18, 2006 at approximately 5PM, , while sitting at a desk at Tweed, Ms. Mashea Ashton, the employee of the NYC DOE with whom I spoke about viewing the Ross Charter Application under FOIL, and the person who gave me the time 2-6PM to read the charter and gave me the 1010 pages to read, told me that I had to give her my notes so she could read them. I unwillingly gave my notes to her, and she told me that she had to seize two pages.

Now, the NYC BOE is informing me that I will get my notes back, but in an altered form. I do not believe that I wrote down any personal addresses.

Please reply as soon as possible, by telephone if necessary:

212-794-8902,

or by return email, about the NYC BOE giving me back my personal notes, redacted by them.

Thank you!!

Betsy Combier

betsy@parentadvocates.org

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From: Best Michael [mailto:MBest2@nycboe.net]  
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2006 6:22 PM  
To: Betsy  
Subject: FW: Your request regarding notes taken about the Ross Charter School Application

Please see below. It appears that the attempt to send this email to your other email address was not successful.

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From: Best Michael  
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2006 6:18 PM  
To: 'Solarmedia@aol.com'  
Subject: Your request regarding notes taken about the Ross Charter School Application

Ms. Combier,

I have considered the situation regarding the notes you took while examining paperwork related to the Ross Global Charter School ("Ross").

There are two pages of notes at issue. My understanding is that Ms. Mashea

Ashton of the DOE asked to see your notes and realized that you had copied down the addresses of various people associated with Ross. Realizing belatedly that information pertaining to the home addresses of these individuals should not have been provided to any member of the public because of the need to protect the individuals' personal privacy, Ms. Ashton asked to see your notes. She then made a redacted copy of your notes, i.e., a photocopy of your notes with the addresses redacted, and she gave you that redacted copy of your notes. Thus, although Ms. Ashton kept the original, unredacted version of your notes, you were not actually deprived of your notes or of any pertinent information concerning Ross.

Upon reviewing the matter, however, I have determined that, with one exception, the redacted addresses are not personal addresses. Instead, they are business addresses, which should not have been redacted. It appears that Ms. Ashton redacted the business addresses in an excess of caution to preserve the privacy rights of the individuals associated with Ross, but at this time, we will provide those business addresses to you. There is, however, one address that appears to be a home address, and it would be inappropriate to release that home address publicly.

Therefore, we will return the original version of your notes to you, but we will redact the one home address before we do so.

Please contact me via email on Monday to let me know the best way to return the notes, with the one item redacted as mentioned, to you. Thank you.

Michael Best