



Bob Ferguson
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Administration Division
PO Box 40100 • Olympia, WA 98504-0100 • (360) 753-6200

October 4, 2024

Sent via email

Michele Matassa Flores
Executive Editor
Seattle Times
P.O. Box 70
Seattle, WA 98111

RE: Petition for Rulemaking

Dear Ms. Flores:

Thank you for the petition for rulemaking submitted on August 8, 2024, by the Seattle Times and other media outlets (collectively, “The News Media”) pursuant to RCW 34.005.330(1). The petition seeks to amend, The Model Public Records Act Rules, in particular WAC 44-14-010 through .040. The concern expressed in your letter accompanying the petition is that reporters are “receiving outrageously long time estimates for satisfying simple records requests” and that “the largest agencies are allowing extreme backlogs to interfere with the public’s right to be informed in a timely manner.” To address this concern The News Media is proposing rule changes “designed to ensure *prompt* disclosure of public records upon request.”

We have reviewed the proposed changes and determined that agencies, The News Media, and the public could benefit from the revision of certain rules and additional guidance. For this reason, the Attorney General’s Office has initiated the rulemaking process by filing a CR-101 with the Code Revisor, a copy of which is attached. In this way, we can engage with The News Media and other stakeholders to obtain further input in developing amendments to the rules that will help agencies provide prompt disclosure of records.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Ms. Michelle Matassa Flores
October 4, 2024
Page 2

We share your interest in transparency and helping agencies fulfill their obligations under the Public Records Act. Thank you for your interest in this important topic. If someone other than yourself should be a contact on this rulemaking process, please let me know.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christina Beusch".

CHRISTINA BEUSCH
Deputy Attorney General

CB/kw

cc: Katherine George