



Brooke Ganz <reclaimtherecords@gmail.com>

Following up on FOIL request to digitize old Albany death records, up through 191510 messages

Brooke Schreier Ganz <reclaimtherecords@gmail.com>
To: Mike Ramondelli <mike.ramondelli@yonkersny.gov>

Fri, Mar 9, 2018 at 2:10 PM

Hi Mike,

As per our phone conversation earlier today, I wanted to follow up by e-mail about my pending FOIL request.

As you know, I'm the founder and president of a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit group called Reclaim The Records. We're a group of genealogists, historians, archivists, and journalists who acquire copies of old hard-to-access genealogical records using Freedom of Information laws, and then we scan them and put them all online for free public use, without any restrictions or copyrights or paywalls or anything like that. Basically, we want to help people find information about their families, even if they live outside of New York and can't go onsite to do the research in person.

And as you know, I made a FOIL request to your office late last fall asking if we could get copies (or preferably scans or digital photos) of the old Yonkers death records prior to December 31, 1915. The reason we want them up to 1915 is that starting in 1916 they were collected in the New York statewide death index through the New York State Department of Health. And we already got that statewide death index last year, through a separate Freedom of Information request we made to the New York State Department of Health. (It took seventeen months of work, but we eventually got them to scan it for us, for the first time ever!) But Yonkers records were not included in that record set for earlier years.

We've also gotten records in the past few years for the Buffalo death records 1852-1944 from the Buffalo City Clerk's Office, the New York City marriage license index 1908-1929 from the NYC Municipal Archives, the New York City marriage license index 1930-1995 from the New York City Clerk's Office, the New Jersey marriage index 1901-2016 from the New Jersey Department of Health and Human Services, and many other records sets like those. They all have gone online for free public use. Several of them have had (or are currently having) their images transcribed for the first time into free public text-searchable databases, which means that people can more easily find their relatives and ancestors in the records.

And we'd really like to do the same thing for the old Albany death records. It would be so great if they were online for free public use. And we're happy to pay for someone on your staff to digitally photograph or scan the old books for us, or we can hire a vendor to come onsite and do it, whatever you think is appropriate. Under the New York State Freedom of Information Law, I think the maximum you can charge is \$0.25 per scan or photo (or per Xerox copy, but we'd rather not have to deal with papers, digital copies would be so much better).

So I was wondering how many of these old books there are, and approximately how many pages there are, and what years they cover. You mentioned on the phone that you think maybe the death records start in the 1870's? And we only need up through the end of 1915.

Please let me know what I can do to help move this along. My cellphone is 917-572-3834, please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns. And I'm looking forward to working with you on this project. :-)

- Brooke Schreier Ganz
President and Founder, Reclaim The Records
<https://www.ReclaimTheRecords.org/>

Brooke Schreier Ganz <reclaimtherecords@gmail.com>
To: Mike Ramondelli <mike.ramondelli@yonkersny.gov>

Tue, Mar 20, 2018 at 3:30 PM

Hi Mike,

Just following up with you on this FOIL request. Any news?

- Brooke Schreier Ganz
President and Founder, Reclaim The Records
<https://www.ReclaimTheRecords.org/>

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Mike Ramondelli <mike.ramondelli@yonkersny.gov>
To: Brooke Schreier Ganz <reclaimtherecords@gmail.com>
Cc: Vincent Spano <vincent.spano@yonkersny.gov>, Helen Aggrey <Helen.Aggrey@yonkersny.gov>

Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 7:38 AM

Hi Brooke,
I spoke with the City Clerk in regards to your request. We are planning on meeting with our City's Counsel to discuss. I will contact you after the meeting occurs.
You will hear back from me by next week's end.

Mike Ramondelli
Deputy City Clerk
Tel 914-377-6018
Fax 914-377-6024
[Quoted text hidden]

Mike Ramondelli <mike.ramondelli@yonkersny.gov>
To: Brooke Schreier Ganz <reclaimtherecords@gmail.com>
Cc: Vincent Spano <vincent.spano@yonkersny.gov>, Nerissa Pena <nerissa.pena@yonkersny.gov>

Mon, Apr 2, 2018 at 9:42 AM

Hi Brooke,
City Clerk Spano would like to schedule a conference call with you to discuss how we might proceed in facilitating your request.
Understanding that you are on Pacific time, would Wednesday 11 am eastern time work for you (8 am Pacific). If this time doesn't work for you, perhaps you can suggest a more suitable time.
Thank you.

Mike Ramondelli
Deputy City Clerk
Tel 914-377-6018
Fax 914-377-6024

-----Original Message-----

From: Brooke Schreier Ganz [<mailto:reclaimtherecords@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 6:30 PM
To: Mike Ramondelli
Subject: Re: Following up on FOIL request to digitize old Albany death records, up through 1915

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Brooke Schreier Ganz <reclaimtherecords@gmail.com>
To: Mike Ramondelli <mike.ramondelli@yonkersny.gov>
Cc: Vincent Spano <vincent.spano@yonkersny.gov>, Nerissa Pena <nerissa.pena@yonkersny.gov>

Mon, Apr 2, 2018 at 1:00 PM

Hi Mike,

I'm usually busy getting my kids off to school at 8 AM. :-)

But maybe later on Wednesday, 10:30 AM Pacific (1:30 PM Eastern) or later?

- Brooke

- Brooke Schreier Ganz
President and Founder, Reclaim The Records
<https://www.ReclaimTheRecords.org/>

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Mike Ramondelli <mike.ramondelli@yonkersny.gov>
To: Brooke Schreier Ganz <reclaimtherecords@gmail.com>
Cc: Vincent Spano <vincent.spano@yonkersny.gov>, Nerissa Pena <nerissa.pena@yonkersny.gov>

Mon, Apr 2, 2018 at 1:03 PM

I will get back to you.

Mike Ramondelli
Deputy City Clerk
Tel 914-377-6018
Fax 914-377-6024

-----Original Message-----

From: Brooke Schreier Ganz [mailto:reclaimtherecords@gmail.com]

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Mike Ramondelli <mike.ramondelli@yonkersny.gov>
To: Brooke Schreier Ganz <reclaimtherecords@gmail.com>
Cc: Vincent Spano <vincent.spano@yonkersny.gov>, Nerissa Pena <nerissa.pena@yonkersny.gov>, Helen Aggrey <Helen.Aggrey@yonkersny.gov>

Tue, Apr 3, 2018 at 5:36 PM

How does 12:00pm Pacific Time (3pm eastern) work?

Mike Ramondelli
Deputy City Clerk
Tel 914-377-6018
Fax 914-377-6024

-----Original Message-----

From: Brooke Schreier Ganz [mailto:reclaimtherecords@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, April 02, 2018 4:00 PM

To: Mike Ramondelli

Cc: Vincent Spano; Nerissa Pena

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Brooke Schreier Ganz <reclaimtherecords@gmail.com>
To: Mike Ramondelli <mike.ramondelli@yonkersny.gov>
Cc: Vincent Spano <vincent.spano@yonkersny.gov>, Nerissa Pena <nerissa.pena@yonkersny.gov>, Helen Aggrey <Helen.Aggrey@yonkersny.gov>

Tue, Apr 3, 2018 at 6:07 PM

Noon (Pacific) is fine, thanks!

My cellphone is 917-572-3834. Looking forward to speaking with you all tomorrow.

- Brooke

- Brooke Schreier Ganz
President and Founder, Reclaim The Records
<https://www.ReclaimTheRecords.org/>

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Jessica Cinguina <jessica.cinguina@yonkersny.gov>
To: "reclaimtherecords@gmail.com" <reclaimtherecords@gmail.com>
Cc: Mike Ramondelli <mike.ramondelli@yonkersny.gov>

Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 6:02 AM

Morning Brooke,

I spoke with our IT Dept. and before they begin working on transferring these records they need to know what format to send them (i.e. pdf files).
Please advise ASAP so that we may begin processing this request. I am scheduled to meet with our IT Dept. today at 2pm.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you.

Jessica Cinguina
Registrar of Vital Statistics
Office Of The City Clerk
City Hall - Room 107
40 South Broadway
Yonkers, New York 10701
914 377-6017

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Ramondelli
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 4:30 PM
To: Jessica Cinguina
Subject: FW: Following up on FOIL request to digitize old Albany death records, up through 1915

Mike Ramondelli
Deputy City Clerk
Tel 914-377-6018
Fax 914-377-6024

-----Original Message-----

From: Brooke Schreier Ganz [mailto:reclaimtherecords@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2018 4:00 PM
To: Mike Ramondelli
Cc: Vincent Spano; Nerissa Pena

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Brooke Schreier Ganz <reclaimtherecords@gmail.com>
To: Jessica Cinguina <jessica.cinguina@yonkersny.gov>
Cc: Mike Ramondelli <mike.ramondelli@yonkersny.gov>

Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 12:10 PM

Hi Jessica,

I'm happy to receive the files in whatever format you have them! If

1/17/2019

Gmail - Following up on FOIL request to digitize old Albany death records, up through 1915

they're already in .TIFF or .JPG, then that's what I'll take. If they're already in .PDF, then that's what I'll take. The higher the image quality, the better.

Thanks!

- Brooke

- Brooke Schreier Ganz
President and Founder, Reclaim The Records
<https://www.ReclaimTheRecords.org/>

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