August 10, 2015

Jared Hopkins
Chicago Tribune
jahopkins@chicagotribune.com

Re: FOIA Request 15-635

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request dated August 3, in which you requested:

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· All emails, including any underlying attachments, related to the hiring, firing, departure, or resignation of former athletic trainer Scott David Brooks.
· All emails, including any underlying attachments, related to the licensing of Scott David Brooks.
· A copy of all documents, including any underlying attachments, for the personnel file of Scott David Brooks.”
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Information responsive to the third point of your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 68 pages.

Portions of these documents have been redacted or withheld pursuant to the following section(s) of the Act:

- 140/7(1)(b) that exempts from disclosure “Private information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law or a court order.” This includes personal home addresses, telephone numbers, and identification numbers.

- 140/7(1)(c) that exempts from disclosure “Personal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which, if disclosed, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, unless the disclosure is consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information.” A portion of the documents being requested contain personal information, such as dates of birth, and is therefore exempt from disclosure.

Your request for documents and information listed in point one and two of your request is considered unduly burdensome to the University. Due to the broad wording of your request, compliance with the same would require a search to be conducted across the several departments simply to identify which employees would possess the responsive material. The short response time allowed by the FOIA makes the task of identifying, collecting and
reviewing potentially responsive records in a timely manner unduly burdensome upon the University. As a result, the University has determined that compliance with your request is unduly burdensome and that the University’s burden to process these requests outweighs the public interest.

Pursuant to Section 3(g) of the Act, we would like to extend to you an opportunity to modify your request to make it of more manageable proportions. Specifically we request that you narrow the scope of your request to the records of a limited number of specific employees. This change will help narrow your request to more manageable proportions. I encourage you to call Kathy McCarthy from my office at the phone number below to further discuss ways to narrow your request. If you do not reduce the request, that portion of your request shall be treated as a denial.

You have a right, under the law, to seek a review of this response by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) in the Office of the Attorney General. The PAC may be reached by phone at 217-782-1396, by email to publicaccess@atg.state.il.us, or by postal mail at the Public Access Bureau, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706. You also have the right to seek judicial review under section 11 of this Act.

If you have questions for our office, please contact 217-333-6400.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Hardy
Executive Director
and Chief Records Officer