August 17, 2015

Patrick Pearson
pppearson@higherone.com

Re: FOIA 15-495

Dear Mr. Pearson:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request dated and received in my office on July 10, 2015, in which you requested:

“…all documents related to RFP# JM916: Provide Online Payment System for University of Illinois.

Specifically, please provide:
• The awarded contract
• All cost and technical proposals submitted (we do not need Higher One’s response)
• All award evaluations/score sheets”

Information responsive to your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 444 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 bank account and insurance policy information.

• 140/7(1)(f) that exempts from disclosure “Preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated, except that a specific record or relevant portion of a record shall not be exempt when the record is publicly cited and identified by the head of the public body.” The scoring sheet you requested is deliberative in nature and, thus, is being withheld. On numerous occasions the Public Access Counselor has concluded that scoring sheets used to select a vendor fall within the provisions of this section. (See Ill. Att’y Gen. PAC Pre-Auth. 16159, 16151, 15486, 15333, 15364, 14858, and 14851.)
140/7(1)(g) that exempts from disclosure “Trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person or business where the trade secrets or commercial or financial information are furnished under a claim that they are proprietary, privileged or confidential, and that or where disclosure of the trade secrets or commercial or financial information would cause competitive harm to the person or business…” This includes revised contract terms, technical specifications, project plans, information on current contracts with other firms, and other information which would cause competitive harm if disclosed.

Should you wish to inspect or receive a physical copy of these documents, please call Melanie Kuehn at the phone number below and she will provide you with all necessary details.

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