



**Peekskill City School District**  
*A System Focused on Every Student; Every Day*

*The Mission of the Peekskill City School District is to educate students in a caring, inspiring environment characterized by a spirit of excellence and high expectations; prepare graduates to meet or exceed standards; graduate students who respect and appreciate cultural diversity; and prepare students to pursue adult lives as contributing citizens of our local and global community.*

*Dr. David Fine,  
Superintendent of Schools*

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**PRESS RELEASE**

As many of you have read in the newspaper this week Reclaim NY, a non-profit organization, has named the Peekskill City School District in litigation concerning the District's response to a Freedom of Information Law ("FOIL") request. Additionally, Reclaim NY asserted during a recent press conference, very serious allegations against those named in the legal action, including our District. I want to set the record straight.

First, the District takes its responsibilities as it relates to FOIL extremely seriously. Indeed, upon receiving Reclaim NY's FOIL request for various vendor information on August 12, 2016, the District responded within 4 days providing over 200 pages of information. The only information withheld was check numbers.

Check numbers were withheld based upon legal advice, after several school districts in New York State received similar FOILs (from a different organization) and that organization was able to utilize the check numbers (and other information) to commit fraud upon the vendors and the school districts.

Further, the District never received an appeal to its denial of check numbers which is a legal requirement of Public Officers Law, prior to an action being commenced in Court. Rather, the next communication the District received was from a local newspaper requesting a comment on a case the District had no knowledge of nor to date has ever been served with.

Regardless of the District's belief that Reclaim NY would not be successful in its litigation against the District, the District does not want to utilize any of its limited resources on fighting this ill-advised claim. Accordingly, we have reached out to Reclaim NY to resolve this matter.

In closing, we must express our chagrin at the inappropriate and incorrect assertions made by Reclaim NY concerning our District. The Peekskill City School District rapidly and thoroughly responded to the Reclaim NY's FOIL request. The only data withheld was check numbers which information has been used in the past by others for fraudulent purposes.