

The Seattle Times

Hello,

My name is Manuel Villa and I'm a journalist for the Seattle Times.

You are receiving this notice because we have requested an extract of the Department of Retirement Services database about employees covered by state pension plans. I wanted to take a moment to explain to you why we are requesting the data.

As the region's largest newspaper, this information has for years been one of the Times's main tools to hold our government accountable. In the past, we have used it to report on unjustified and exorbitant payouts at the cost of taxpayers, or to find individuals in public office who had serious criminal records.

We only request information that is public record under Washington state law. The Seattle Times signs an agreement with the DRS that limits what we can do with the information.

We do not use this information for commercial purposes, nor do we share or sell it to third parties. We do not publish personal information, such as dates of birth.

We wanted to let you know this because we understand that public employees may have concerns about this request. If you have any questions, we would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

Manuel Villa
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