



Spokane County
WASHINGTON

TOM KONIS
SPOKANE COUNTY ASSESSOR

September 3, 2019

Spokane Association of Realtors Members,

Recently you may have noticed that the Assessor's office has removed the owner's names from the downloadable information available through our website, all the other information is still available. This was done to conform to an August 1, 2019 Attorney General Opinion (AGO 2019 no. 3) as it states:

CONCLUSION

In sum, we conclude that the prohibition in RCW 42.56.070(8) extends to electronic records that may be internally sorted or queried to display lists of individuals. In response to requests seeking such records, agencies should consider whether they can produce the records with redaction, whether the requestors are willing to modify their requests to avoid disclosure of lists of individuals, or whether the agencies can provide customized access pursuant to RCW 42.56.120(3).

This confirms RCW 42.56.070(8):

"This chapter shall not be construed as giving authority to any agency, the office of the secretary of the senate, or the office of the chief clerk of the house of representatives to give, sell or provide access to lists of individuals requested for commercial purposes..."

I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause but to protect the owners of property in Spokane County and on advice from our legal counsel we have had to remove all individual's names from our downloadable records. The owner and taxpayer information are still available on a parcel level on the property information summary page of SCOUT.

I am hoping that the Washington State Association of County Assessors (WSACA) will be looking to the Legislature to amend the current RCW to allow us to have this information available.

Sincerely,

Tom Konis
Spokane County Assessor