



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

132 JERSEYVILLE AVENUE
FREEHOLD, NJ 07728-2374

(732) 431-7160

RAYMOND S. SANTIAGO
MONMOUTH COUNTY PROSECUTOR

December 3, 2025

ASK NJ Media
opra+request-83764-0df0c3b5@requests.opramachine.com

Re: records request dated November 25, 2025

To whom it may concern:

This office received a records request citing the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and the common-law right of access from you via email on Tuesday, November 25. Specifically, you requested the following records:

1. *"Most recent list of all Monmouth County Prosecutor's fleet vehicles (if known, for example Police Interceptor), year(s) of manufacture, year(s) of purchase, (and) purchase price for each fleet vehicle."*

Turning first to the OPRA prong of your request, please be advised that a search of our records, conducted in accordance with the information you provided, revealed the presence of a responsive document. A partially redacted copy, with individual elements not requested left omitted, is attached to this email.

This copy fulfills your request for a) the "list of ... fleet vehicles," and b) "year(s) of manufacture." However, as you'll note, the original copy we retain on file does not feature the vehicles' c) "year(s) of purchase" or d) "purchase price for each vehicle."

Please note that pursuant to *Bent v. Stafford* (App. Div., 2005), "OPRA only allows requests for records, not requests for information. See *MAG Entm't, LLC v. Div. of Alcoholic Beverage Control*, 375 N.J. Super. 534, 546-49 (App. Div. 2005). In this regard, OPRA 'is not intended as a research tool . . . to force government officials to identify and siphon useful information.' Id. at 546. In other words, a records custodian is not required 'to conduct research among its records . . . and correlate data from various government records in the custodian's possession.' Id. at 546-47. (internal citation omitted)."

To collect the individual years of purchase and purchase prices for the numerous vehicles listed in this responsive document would constitute extensive research, and as outlined here, under OPRA, a Custodian of Records has no such obligation. As such, your request is considered fulfilled, being granted in part and denied in part.

Turning now to the common-law prong of your request, specifically as it pertains to the two elements not featured on the document we retain on file:

As you may know, each such request must be subject to a balancing test, in which the requestor's interest in obtaining the requested records is weighed against the record stewards' interest in maintaining their confidentiality. However, in the absence of a clearly articulable interest on the part of the requestor, the aforementioned balancing test is impossible to perform. Accordingly, we assert that the same reasoning we elucidated regarding research applies in this respect as well.

Should you disagree with any portion of this determination, you may appeal to the Government Records Council (GRC) or the New Jersey Superior Court as provided by *N.J.S.A.* 47:1A-6 and 7. In the event of a clarification or appeal, this office reserves the right to raise any other ground for denial not raised in this response. The failure of this office to assert an exception or privilege at this time does not act as a waiver of any grounds for denial.

With this, your request is considered fulfilled.

Very truly yours,

RAYMOND S. SANTIAGO
MONMOUTH COUNTY PROSECUTOR

/s/ Mark Spivey

By: Mark Spivey
Public Information Officer
OPRA Custodian of Records