



AGENCY NAME HERE
OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUEST FORM
Agency Address
Agency Telephone Number & Fax Number
Agency e-mail address
Name of Agency Custodian

2017-102



Important Notice

The last page of this form contains important information related to your rights concerning government records. Please read it carefully.

Requestor Information – Please Print

First Name Jim MI _____ Last Name O'Donnell

E-mail Address James.O'Donnell@nbcuni.com

Mailing Address 10 Monument Road

City Bala Cynwyd State PA Zip 19004

Telephone 215-913-0273 FAX 610-668-5649

Preferred Delivery: Pick Up _____ US Mail _____ On-Site _____ Fax _____ E-mail ☒

If you are requesting records containing personal information, please circle one: Under penalty of N.J.S.A. 2C:28-3, I certify that I HAVE / ~~HAVE NOT~~ been convicted of any indictable offense under the laws of New Jersey, any other state, or the United States.

Signature James O'Donnell Date 08/09/2017

Payment Information

Maximum Authorization Cost \$ 1

Select Payment Method

Cash ☐ Check Money Order

Fees: Letter size pages - \$0.05 per page
Legal size pages - \$0.07 per page
Other materials (CD, DVD, etc) – actual cost of material
Delivery: Delivery / postage fees additional depending upon delivery type.

Extras: Special service charge dependent upon request.

Record Request Information: Please be as specific as possible in describing the records being requested. Also, please note that your preferred method of delivery will only be accommodated if the custodian has the technological means and the integrity of the records will not be jeopardized by such method of delivery.

Please see attached 3 pages

AGENCY USE ONLY

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Est. Document Cost _____
Est. Delivery Cost _____
Est. Extras Cost _____
Total Est. Cost _____
Deposit Amount _____
Estimated Balance _____

Deposit Date _____

Disposition Notes
Custodian: If any part of request cannot be delivered in seven business days, detail reasons here.

In Progress - Open _____
Denied - Closed _____
Filled - Closed _____
Partial - Closed _____

Tracking Information

Tracking # _____ Total _____
Rec'd Date _____ Deposit _____
Ready Date _____ Balance Due _____
Total Pages _____ Balance Paid _____

Records Provided

Custodian Signature _____

Date _____



TRACE MEDIA, INC.
P.O. Box 4184,
New York, NY 10163

info@thetrace.org
thetrace.org

August 7, 2017

Dear Records Officer,

This is a joint request from Trace Media Inc. and NBC10 to your Police Department for certain information pertaining to stolen and seized firearms, information that we understand to be public under public records laws.

We request the following:

Part 1) The below listed information for each firearm reported stolen to your agency from January 1, 2012, to August 1, 2017:

- Serial Number
- Year
- Date
- Incident No
- Report Type
- Property Type – Description
- Property Gun Description
- Property Description
- Property Model
- Property Gun Caliber
- Property Count
- Any other columns available

Part 2) The below listed information for each firearm seized by your agency from January 1, 2012, to August 1, 2017:

- Serial Number
- Occur From Date
- Property Description
- Property Brand
- Property Model
- Property Gun Description
- Property Gun Caliber
- Incode Description
- Incode
- Any other columns available
- Crime Category Code

Part 3) Any and all available data dictionaries and/or code sheets so that we can ascertain the meaning of column headings, codes, abbreviations, and other information contained in the CDW BI.



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As members of the news media, Trace Media and NBC10 will be making information obtained from this request available to the general public and are not requesting the records for commercial purposes.

The serial number is the most important piece of descriptive information for a firearm.

Serial numbers are assigned to specific firearms, not specific individuals, so any argument that releasing a serial number could identify, let alone endanger, a witness is without merit. Furthermore, because serial numbers serve as the identification markings for firearms, not people, any argument that gun owners have a right to privacy regarding the serial numbers of their weapons is equally flawed.

Firearm serial numbers by themselves cannot be used to identify an individual or a witness. The U.S. federal government does not have a comprehensive firearm registry, and in even in states where registries do exist, the information contained therein is not open to the general public. Moreover, while serial numbers are designed to aid in the identification of specific firearms, their distinctiveness is not absolute. Under federal regulations, serial numbers may be duplicated by different manufacturers. For example, if Manufacturer A produces a handgun with serial number 12345, Manufacturer B can also produce a handgun with serial number 12345 and still be in compliance with the law.

The release of serial numbers would also not hinder a law enforcement investigation. To argue such would be akin to saying that serial numbers somehow open a window into a police investigative file, which they do not. Besides, serial numbers often appear in publicly accessible court documents, albeit without the centralization key for newsgathering and analysis.

This request is part of a national project exploring the use of stolen guns in crime, an issue of paramount import to the citizens of your community and the brave police officers who protect and serve them.

So far, more than 200 public law enforcement agencies around the country have released serial number information to us in response to public records requests for this project.

We hope that your agency takes our arguments into consideration when reviewing our records request.

We ask that the requested records be provided in a .xlsx, .xls, .csv, .txt, or another spreadsheet-compatible format. We also ask that you email the records to Jim.ODonnell@NBCUN1.com



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When releasing the records, please be mindful that .xlsx and .xls file extensions may delete leading zeros from serial numbers – turning, for example, a serial number that is actually 012345 into 12345. This could skew our analysis. To ensure that this does not happen, please take care to download and import the serial number column in a “Text” number format.

If there are fees associated with this request, we would appreciate if you informed us of the estimated charges in advance.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact

Jim O'Donnell
Senior Investigative Producer
NBC10
215-913-0273