



Chief of Police
Dennis McFadden

Carteret Police Department
230 Roosevelt Avenue
Carteret, N.J. 07008
(732) 541-4181



Date July 29,2020

Dear Mr. Lord,

The Carteret Police Department's Official Records Custodian, Captain Jeffrey VanWoeart received your OPRA Records Act (NJSA 47:1A-1) on July 21,2020 which was forwarded from the Carteret Borough Clerks Office. As such, the seven (7) business day deadline to respond to your request is July 30,2020. This response is being provided on the sixth (6th) business day since the Carteret Police Department Records Custodian received the said request.

The following specific records have been requested:

I request the police payroll records
the time logs time sheets
the cost and time it took to put the early warning link on the town police website.

Special Statement of the Government Records Council 2020-01

In response to the recent amendment to Open Public Records Act ("OPRA"), the Government Records Council ("GRC") has prepared the following guidance on the effects of work disruptions and potential closures due to COVID 19. Enacted on March 20, 2020, P.L. 2020, c.10 amended N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i) as follows: During a period declared pursuant to the laws of this State as a state of emergency, public health emergency, or state of local disaster emergency, the deadlines by which to respond to a request for, or grant or deny access to, a government record under paragraph (1) of this subsection or subsection e. of this section shall not apply, provided, however, that the custodian of a government record shall make a reasonable effort, as the circumstances permit, to respond to a request for access to a government record within seven business days or as soon as possible thereafter. [Id. at (2).] P.L. 2020, c.10 provides that OPRA's statutory deadlines do not apply for the duration of a Governor-declared state of emergency pursuant to the Disaster Control Act (N.J.S.A. App.A.9-33 *et seq.*) or a public health emergency under the Emergency Health Powers Act (N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 *et seq.*), or when a state of local disaster emergency is declared by a county or by a municipality. Further, the new amendment requires custodians to make a "reasonable effort" to respond to an OPRA request during that time. However, the amendment also adds that any custodian with the ability to follow the deadlines as set forth in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(e) and 5(i) should do so.

The size of your request is voluminous and therefore requires additional time beyond the seven (7) business days to fulfill. OPRA allows custodians to seek extension of time pursuant to N.J.S.A.

47:1a_5.1. Specifically, OPRA states that, "the requestor shall be advised by the custodian when the record can be made available. If the record is not made available by that time, access shall be denied."

Your request requires an extension of time until August 19 ,2020.

If your request for access to a government record has been denied or unfilled within seven (7) business days by law, you have the right to challenge the decision by the Carteret Police Department to deny access. At your option, you may either institute a proceeding in the Superior Court of New Jersey or file a complaint with the Government Records Council (GRC) by completing the Denial of Access Complaint form. In addition to the website, information can be obtained from GRC Staff by email Government.Records@dca.nj.gov, toll-free phone number (866-855-0511), fax (609-633-6337), or by US mail at PO Box 819, Trenton, New Jersey, 08625-0819.

Respectfully,

Captain Jeffrey VanWoeart

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Capt. J. VanWoeart", followed by the number "129".