

BIRDSALL, LAUGHLIN & CLARK

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OFFICE LOCATION:
1720 Highway 34 North
Wall, New Jersey 07719

February 12, 2026

VIA EMAIL ONLY

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXX.XXXXXXXXXX.XXX

Mr. Keith Branning

Re: OPRA Request submitted on February 11, 2026

Dear Mr. Branning;

Please be advised that this office represents the interests of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office ("MCSO") with respect to your Open Public Records Act request submitted on the website on February 11, 2026, a copy of which is attached hereto. The official Records Custodian, Cynthia Scott, Public Information Officer for the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office received the request on February 11, 2026. As such, the seven (7) business day deadline to respond to your request is February 23, 2026. This response is being provided to you on the first (1st) business day after the custodian's receipt of the request.

The request in question seeks:

Records Requested:

1. Do the PSTs assigned to a specific town work that town on a regular basis?
2. How much forced Overtime have PSTs had to work in 2024 and 2025?
3. How much Overtime has been paid to PSTs in 2024 and 2025?
4. Of the taxes Monmouth County collects from the municipalities and its residents, what percentage goes toward the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office 911 center?

The MCSO provides the following response:

The request in question fails to identify any "government records" sought. The OPRA is a "records access" law. It does not create a right to serve interrogatories upon a records custodian, as this request does. See MAG Entm't, LLC v. Div. of Alcohol Beverage Control, 375 N.J. Super. 534 (App. Div. 2005) where the Court held that "[w]hile OPRA provides an alternative means of access to government documents not otherwise exempted from its reach, it is not intended as a research tool litigants may use to force government officials to identify and siphon useful information. Rather, OPRA simply operates to make **identifiable government records 'readily accessible for inspection, copying, or examination.'**

OFFICE LOCATION: 1720 HIGHWAY 34 NORTH, WALL, NEW JERSEY 07719

BIRDSALL, LAUGHLIN & CLARK, LLC

Re: OPRA Request dated February 11, 2026

Date: February 12, 2026

Page: 2

N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.” (*emphasis added*). This request cannot be responded too as it fails to identify any government records to be supplied.

If your request for access to a government record has been denied or unfilled within the seven (7) business days required by law, you have a right to challenge the decision by the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office 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. You may contact the GRC by toll-free telephone at 866-850-0511, by mail at P.O. Box 819, Trenton, NJ, 08625, by e-mail at gxx@xxx.xxxxxx.xx.xx, or at their web site at www.state.nj.us/grc. The GRC can also answer other questions about the law. All questions regarding complaints filed in Superior Court should be directed to the Court Clerk in your County.

Very truly yours,

BIRDSALL, LAUGHLIN & CLARK, LLC

/s/David A. Laughlin

David A. Laughlin, Esq.

DAL/od

cc: Cynthia Scott, Public Information Officer
Monmouth County Sheriff's Office

Due

February 23, 2026

Received

February 11, 2026 via web

Anticipated fulfillment

Fulfillment date not set

Requester

keith branning

opra+request-86457-afc41e01@requests.opramachine.com

View email status

Additional information

Under penalty of N.J.S.A. 2C:28-3, I certify that I HAVE/HAVE NOT (please type response below) been convicted of any indictable offense under the laws of New Jersey, any other state, or the es. tered

elp out today?

Under penalty of N.J.S.A. 2C:28-3, I certify that I AM/AM NOT (please type response below) seeking records in connection with a legal proceeding.

Dear Monmouth County,

Please accept this electronic request for public records made under OPRA and the common law right of access. I am not required to fill out an official form or use a particular software platform to submit my request per NJSA 47:1A-6(f), which states that an email from a requestor including all of the information required on the adopted form shall suffice in place of a completed form as a valid government record request.

I HAVE NOT been convicted of any indictable offense under the laws of New Jersey, any other state, or the United States.

I WILL NOT use the requested government records for a commercial purpose.

I AM NOT seeking records in connection with a legal proceeding.

Records requested:

1. Do the PSTs assigned to a specific town work that town on a regular basis?

2. How much forced Overtime have PSTs had to work in 2024 and 2025?

3. How much Overtime has been paid to PSTs in 2024 and 2025?

4. Of the taxes Monmouth County collects from the municipalities and its residents, what percentage goes toward the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office 911 center?

My preferred delivery method for response(s) to this request is by E-mail as attachments.Please confirm you have received this request. If you are not the custodian of records, please forward my request to that person and provide their email address to me for future reference.

Yours faithfully,

keith branning

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Staff Only