



SPARTA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

65 MAIN STREET • SPARTA, NEW JERSEY 07871-1903
PH: (973) 729-6121 • FAX: (973) 729-5073
WWW.SPARTAPD.ORG



May 18, 2026

Email: opra+request-91182-f597c83d@requests.opramachine.com

Re: OPRA Request #290

Dear Mr. Miller,

The Township is in receipt of your OPRA/Common Law request seeking:

“Any and all drone footage and locations that are available.”

At this time, the request is deficient and overly broad because it does not identify specific identifiable government records with sufficient clarity as required under the Open Public Records Act (“OPRA”), N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

Under New Jersey law, OPRA requests must identify identifiable government records and may not require a public agency to conduct open-ended research or create a compilation of records. See:

- Bent v. Stafford Police Department, 381 N.J. Super. 30 (App. Div. 2005) (holding that OPRA does not authorize blanket requests for broad categories of records);
- MAG Entertainment, LLC v. Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 375 N.J. Super. 534 (App. Div. 2005) (finding that requests must specifically identify desired records rather than seek generalized information); and
- Burke v. Brandes, 429 N.J. Super. 169 (App. Div. 2012) (holding that custodians are not required to perform research or analyze files to determine what records may be responsive).

The request for “any and all drone footage and locations” does not provide a reasonable date range, incident, event, location, subject matter, or other limiting criteria necessary for the Township to identify responsive government records.

In lieu of a denial, the Township is requesting clarification of your request. Please provide, to the extent possible:

- A specific date or date range;
- Specific location(s);
- Incident type, investigation, event, or subject matter;
- Any known report number, case number, or call type;



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- The specific drone footage sought; and/or
- Any other information that would reasonably identify the records being requested.

Please provide clarification within seven (7) business days of today's date. If clarification is not received within that time, this matter will be administratively closed, and a new OPRA request will be required should you wish to pursue the records at a later time.

Nothing contained herein shall be deemed a waiver of any rights, exemptions, privileges, or defenses available under OPRA, the common law, or any other applicable law.