

Donna Belton

18-548

From: ASK NJ Media Co. <opra+request-1570-ee2e7c15@requests.opramachine.com>
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2018 2:30 PM
To: clerkforms
Subject: Open Public Records Act request - Various E-mails

Dear Howell Township,

This is a request for public records made under OPRA and the common law right of access. Please acknowledge receipt of this message.

Records requested:

1. All e-mails to and from Andrew Kudrick between July 1, 2016 and April 27, 2018 containing the words 'Jennifer Coombs', 'Jen Coombs', and/or 'Citizens Videotaping in Public Buildings'.
2. All e-mails to and from Jesse Moore between July 1, 2016 and April 27, 2018 containing the words 'Jennifer Coombs', 'Jen Coombs', and/or 'Citizens Videotaping in Public Buildings'.
3. All e-mails to and from Scott Revilak between July 1, 2016 and April 27, 2018 containing the words 'Jennifer Coombs', 'Jen Coombs', and/or 'Citizens Videotaping in Public Buildings'.
4. All e-mails to and from Richard Conte between July 1, 2016 and April 27, 2018 containing the words 'Jennifer Coombs', 'Jen Coombs', and/or 'Citizens Videotaping in Public Buildings'.
5. All e-mails to and from Paul Mazzeo between July 1, 2016 and April 27, 2018 containing the words 'Jennifer Coombs', 'Jen Coombs', and/or 'Citizens Videotaping in Public Buildings'.
6. All e-mails to and from Thomas Rizzo between July 1, 2016 and April 27, 2018 containing the words 'Jennifer Coombs', 'Jen Coombs', and/or 'Citizens Videotaping in Public Buildings'.
7. All e-mails to and from John Storrow between July 1, 2016 and April 27, 2018 containing the words 'Jennifer Coombs', 'Jen Coombs', and/or 'Citizens Videotaping in Public Buildings'.
8. All e-mails to and from Mark Pilecki between July 1, 2016 and April 27, 2018 containing the words 'Jennifer Coombs', 'Jen Coombs', and/or 'Citizens Videotaping in Public Buildings'.

Yours faithfully,

ASK NJ Media Co.

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:
opra+request-1570-ee2e7c15@requests.opramachine.com

Is clerkforms@twp.howell.nj.us the wrong address for Open Public Records Act requests to Howell Township? If so, please contact us using this form:

2018 APR 27 P 2:38
CLERK'S OFFICE
TOWNSHIP OF HOWELL
RECEIVED

https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fopramachine.com%2fchange_request%2fnew%3fbody%3dhowell_township&c=E,1,x0XOJcrb5Hd4khGsn1PoCW_VZfuLvp-4Flw-S_Inp1eRdVgIHcanRtoMgLbIkBZ7qBgziata_UG-0MZG9kSe6sgGS5stSKzCet7QjQBYaub7LQKLikwETa9ciaY,&typo=1

Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. Our privacy and copyright policies:

https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fopramachine.com%2fhelp%2fofficers&c=E,1,wGm4o9gXb6yqf0bBBcY8NoJ2ksFoyofuTg9YrmmZiuzGb5AABCZeXooGMP12KM3j5-J16KFW3Xxj-oNluZVVo-PDscGUssQ660eC2lpm_39wk6A5748Fdw,,&typo=1

Please note that in some cases publication of requests and responses will be delayed.

If you find this service useful as an OPRA officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's OPRA page.

Andrew Kudrick

From: Lori Linskey <LLinskey@mcponj.org>
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 1:54 PM
To: Monmouth County Police Chiefs
Subject: Citizens Videotaping in Public Buildings
Attachments: Picture1.jpg

Good afternoon,

Some time ago, we alerted you to a Neptune City resident who drives to government buildings throughout the county to videotape, and then post online, her interactions with public employees at government agencies. The citizen, Jennifer Coombs, is back at this again and we have been alerted by some of your departments. This is understandably unsettling to the staff and law enforcement officers who work in the buildings in which this individual has been filming. Although this individual's conduct seems wrong, and our initial reaction as law enforcement is to have this citizen cease her videotaping, her actions are permitted as protected free speech under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Opinions from the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and both the New Jersey and United States Supreme Courts have collectively determined in many different cases that the use of videotaping by citizens, whether of law enforcement, public meetings or government activity, fosters openness which is an important touchstone of our democracy. Regardless of the holdings of our highest courts, it does not mean that the conduct of citizens videotaping in this manner is not disturbing to those of us who are confronted with it in the lobbies of our buildings. Fortunately, there are certain limited instances where such videotaping has been found to cross into territory that permits action on our parts.

Our courts have consistently noted that the right for citizens to record police is permitted, so long as their actions are not interfering with law enforcement operations and are not jeopardizing the safety of officers, suspects, others in the vicinity of the videotaping, or violates a specific law. It is unlikely that a citizen doing little more than videotaping in a public access area of a government building would be demonstrating conduct that would fall into one of these narrow exceptions.

So, what should you do if this individual or another citizen shows up in your lobby or another publicly accessible space and starts videotaping? Be courteous, ask if you can be of assistance, and ignore any comments the citizen may make designed to incite a response from you or your staff, regardless of how long the individual stays. Be mindful that anything that you or members of your staff say or do during that interaction will most likely end up online for all to see. Please make sure that your officers and staff members are made aware of this information so that they can respond accordingly. If you are concerned that the actions of a videotaping citizen are stepping over the wide boundaries of free speech that our courts have set, please call your MCPO legal advisor for guidance.

We have attached a recent photo of Ms. Coombs for your reference.

Jennifer Coombs



If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to let me know.

Lori



Lori Linskey
First Assistant Prosecutor
Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
132 Jerseyville Avenue
Freehold, New Jersey 07728-2374
732-431-7160 ext. 6790
llinskey@mcponj.org

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY This message, including any prior messages and attachments, may contain advisory, consultative and/or deliberative material, confidential information or privileged communications of the Office of the Monmouth County Prosecutor. Access to this message by anyone other than the sender and the intended recipient(s) is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, any disclosure, copying, distribution or action taken or not taken in reliance on it, without the expressed written consent of the Office of the Monmouth County Prosecutor, is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, you should not save, scan, transmit, print, use or disseminate this message or any information contained in this message in any way and you should promptly delete or destroy this message and all copies of it. Please notify the sender by return e-mail if you have received this message in error.