



Oakland Police Department

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James Buford

Re: Open Public Records Act Request

Dear Mr. Buford:

The Borough of Oakland ("Borough") records custodian received your Open Public Records Act ("OPRA ") request on August 4, 2025. The seven business day deadline to respond to your request is August 13, 2025. As such, the Borough is timely responding to your OPRA request in accordance with New Jersey law. I have attached the responses for item 1 of your request.

With respect to item 2, "Incident Detail/CAD Reports for instances in which a vehicle refused to stop, but a pursuit was NOT initiated from 1/1/2024 to 8/1/2025", please note that your request is overly broad, as it fails to identify with reasonable clarity any particular records sought. OP RA operates to make identifiable government records "readily accessible for inspection, copying, or examination." NJS.A. 47:1A-. New Jersey courts have consistently held that OPRA does not countenance open-ended searches of an agency's files. *MAG Entm't. LLC v. Div. of ABC*, 375 NJ Super. 534, 549 (App. Div. 2005); *New Jersey Builders Ass'n v. New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing*, 390 NJ Super. 166 (App. Div.), cert. denied, 190 NJ 394 (2007). Consequently, a proper request under OPRA "must identify with reasonable clarity those documents that are desired, and a party cannot satisfy this requirement by simply requesting all of an agency's documents." See *Spectraserv, Inc. v. Middlesex Cty. Utilities Auth.*, 416 NJ Super. 565, 576 (App. Div. 2010); *Bent v. Twp. Of Stafford Police Dep't*, 381 NJ Super. 30, 37 (App. Div. 2005). OPRA requests may not be a broad generic description of documents that require the custodian to search the agency's files and "analyze, compile and collate" the requested information. *Id.*; see also *Lagerkvist v. Office of Governor of State*, 443 NJ Super. 230,237 (App. Div. 2015) (holding that OPRA does not convert a custodian into a researcher, which would have been the effect of the request). Here, your request is clearly deficient as it purportedly seeks all of the security camera footage in the Borough's possession pertaining to the October 20, 2021 and October 31, 2021/November 1, 2021 incidents, and purports to require the Borough to conduct research with respect to same. See *Parreott v. Asbury Park School District*, GRC Complaint Nos. 2016-20 & 2016-39 (Sept. 2017) (holding that the portion of the request seeking "all relevant documents" was invalid because it sought a class of various records and would have required the records custodian to conduct research in order to locate responsive records); see also *Burke v. Ocean Cty.*, 2013 WL 6169154 (App. Div. 2013) (holding that an OPRA request is not the equivalent of law suit discovery).

Your OPRA request is now deemed answered and closed. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Lieutenant Ryan O'Keefe

Records Custodian