



OFFICE OF THE HUDSON COUNTY PROSECUTOR

595 NEWARK AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07306

ESTHER SUAREZ
PROSECUTOR

TELEPHONE: (201) 795-6400
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June 6, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

opra+request-42621-a4980874@requests.opramachine.com

Toniann Antonelli
News 12
Managing Editor

Re: May 11, 2023 OPRA/Common Law Request for Video of Interrogation of Richard Cottingham June 19, 2014

Dear Ms. Antonelli:

The Hudson County Prosecutor's Office (HCPO) is in receipt of your above request under the New Jersey Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47: 1A-1, et. seq. and Common Law. (Copy is attached for your easy reference.)

The HCPO thanks you for acknowledging that I was out of the country at the time your request was submitted and unable to respond. The HCPO through its Homicide Section has diligently searched its files, records and data banks. The HCPO possesses no video footage of Richard Cottingham in response to your OPRA request. It is noted that in 2014 Cottingham was interrogated extensively by the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office. Further, we can locate no records to indicate that Cottingham was charged or convicted of any homicides in Hudson County. If you have further details concerning a victim or other information relating to an HCPO investigation of Cottingham, in Hudson County, please let me know. We will follow up with that information if it exists.

You also requested records pursuant to the Common Law Right of Access. Since the HCPO possesses no records in response to this request, a discussion under the Common Law is moot at this time.

Toniann Antonelli

June 6, 2023

Page two

The Hudson County Prosecutor's Office reserves the right to raise any other grounds in support of this response. The failure of the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office to assert any exception, exemption or privilege does not act as a waiver of any ground for denial.

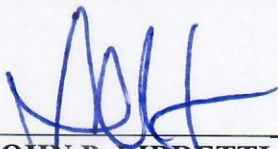
As with any OPRA request, you have the right to challenge the HCPO's determination. At your option, you may either file a complaint in writing with the Government Records Council (GRC), located in the Department of Community Affairs, or institute a proceeding in the Superior Court.

Very truly yours,

ESTHER SUAREZ

Prosecutor of Hudson County

By:



JOHN P. LIBRETTI
Chief of Civil Litigation Unit

JL/

Enclosures

c. Office of the Hudson County Counsel

OPRA request - Videos from the interrogation of murder suspect Richard Cottingham.

Toniann Antonelli <opra+request-42621-a4980874@requests.opramachine.com>

Thu 5/11/2023 8:58 PM

To:OPRA <opra@hcopo.org>;

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders.

Dear Hudson County Prosecutor's Office,

This is a request for public records made under OPRA and the common law right of access. I am not required to fill out an official form. Please acknowledge receipt of this message.

Records requested:

Any and all videos involving the interrogation of murder suspect Richard Cottingham. Specifically requesting the interrogation video from June 19, 2014.

Requesting these videos be sent digitally/via email.

Yours faithfully,
Toniann Antonelli
News 12 NJ managing editor
toniann.antonelli@news12.com
732-346-3270

Please deliver records electronically via email to the below UNIQUE address for all replies to this request:
opra+request-42621-a4980874@requests.opramachine.com

Is opra@hcopo.org the wrong address for OPRA requests to Hudson County Prosecutor's Office? If so, please contact us using this form:

https://opramachine.com/change_request/new?body=hcopo

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

<https://opramachine.com/help/officers>

View this OPRA request & responses online:

[https://opramachine.com/request/videos from the interrogation of](https://opramachine.com/request/videos_from_the_interrogation_of)

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

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