

# Bristol

FIRST TWO VISITS:

OCT. 20

NOV. 7

“ The clerk was somewhat uncooperative and remarkably reluctant to copy the materials. She insisted that I only look at them in the office. It was late in the day and she tried to convince me to come back the next day. She seemed annoyed that I wanted copies to take home. In the end, another clerk copied them quickly for me. Separate copies of the agendas were not available. The clerk insisted that the agendas were included within the minutes. In general, the police department was unhelpful and unaccommodating. When I requested to look at the police log, I had to wait and was eventually referred to the chief. The chief stated that there are "statutes and laws" preventing him from allowing me to look at anything. He was rude and condescending. When I returned to request the arrest and brutality reports, the officer at the front desk refused to give me either and was also quite rude to me. He explained, "we can't just give those out to anyone." It was clear that I was not going to be able to get the documents. He too referred me to the chief of police and told me to submit a written request.

As of yet I have not received a response, including a denial. When I went to inquire about the policy manual and budget, the Bristol-Warren Superintendent's office was wonderful! They gave me a copy of the budget and explained the financial breakdown. The secretary showed me how the policy manual is currently used as the school department is in the process of combining the Bristol and Warren manuals which was helpful and cooperative. ”

### School Committee Minutes:

- Readability: Good
- Thoroughness: Good
- Layout: Good
- Legal Compliance: Full

### City/Town Council Minutes:

- Readability: Average
- Thoroughness: Good
- Layout: Average
- Legal Compliance: Full

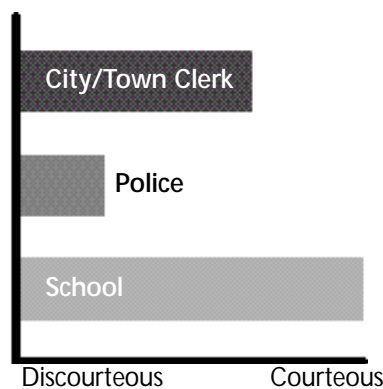
## Documents Not Received



Twenty percent of the requests for public documents were denied in Bristol (including the combined school district with Warren). The problem was the worst in the Police Department. The officers were curt and denied access to all three requests quickly and without hesitation. Eventually the researchers were referred to the chief of police to whom they provided a written request. Eight weeks later, there had been no response.

The employees at the Town Clerk's office and at the police department received one of the lowest ratings in the state for their demeanor. The clerks asked a reason for the request in 80 percent of the interactions, one of the highest rates in the state. A particularly bright spot for Bristol involves the quality of the budget and the minutes.

## How We Were Treated



## Comparison: Cities/Towns

