

South Kingstown

FIRST TWO VISITS:

OCT. 22

NOV. 7

Documents Not Received



School Committee Minutes:

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

City/Town Council Minutes:

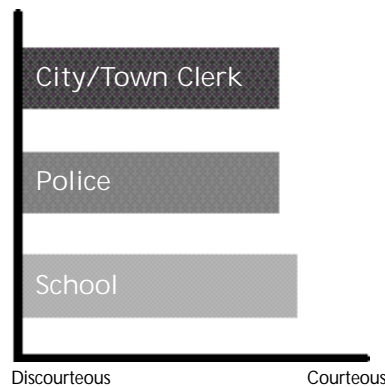
- Readability: Poor
- Thoroughness: Poor
- Layout: Good
- Legal Compliance: Partial

“ At the Police Department, I spoke with two officers about arrest reports. They told me the records were public. They asked if I worked for *The Providence Journal-Bulletin* or if I aspired to be a reporter. I told them I was a concerned citizen and I would like copies of the last three arrest reports. I filled out a Freedom of Information request, and they said they would mail the reports to me, but never did. * As I was leaving the station, I asked the officers their names. One of them said, ‘Why, are you spying on me? Are you gonna get me in trouble?’ ”

The South Kingstown Police Department is one of only nine in the state that complied with all of the indexed items requested. Moreover, South Kingstown is one of the eight jurisdictions that complied with all of the ten indexed items. The town employees were rated “somewhat courteous,” but when compared to all the other employees in that state, they rank close to the bottom. The demeanor rating is about equal across all of the divisions of local government, unlike most cities, which shows the police as less courteous. The South Kingstown officials were more inquisitive than most, asking for identification and the reason for request in 90 percent of the interactions. The town is also one of the ten municipalities statewide that required a written request for one of the documents. (The Police required a written request for copies of arrest reports which was never fulfilled. However, the researcher was allowed to look at the arrest reports in the Police station.)

(Footnote on p. 70.)

How We Were Treated



Comparison: Cities/Towns

