

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

December 8, 2014

Lisa Pinsonneault, Special Assistant Attorney General
Rhode Island Office of Attorney General
150 South Main Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: **Complaint Against Charlestown Police Department for Violations of APRA**

Dear Attorney Pinsonneault:

ACCESS/RI is a broad-based, non-profit freedom of information coalition dedicated to improving citizen access to the records and processes of government in Rhode Island.

I write on behalf of ACCESS/RI to file a complaint against the Charlestown Police Department (herein "CPD") for violating the Access to Public Records Act (herein "APRA"), R.I.G.L. § 38-2-1 et seq.

ACCESS/RI through our contractor Muckrock requested a list from your office of those entities (see Appendix A) that certified employee(s) "who have the authority to grant or deny persons or entities access to records...[and] have been provided orientation and training" (§ 38-2-3.16). The CPD did not appear on those lists provided by your office.

MuckRock also requested from the CPD "Written procedures for access to the agency's public records, including any records request forms required or suggested by the agency" required by § 38-2-3(d) (Appendix B). As the attached correspondence indicates, the CPD was unable to provide written procedures, just a form.

MuckRock also examined compliance with the requirement in § 38-2-3(d) that "a copy of these procedures shall be posted on the public body's website if such a website is maintained and be made otherwise readily available to the public." A MuckRock visual review of the CPD websites on or before August 21, 2014 and site specific ("site:www.charlestownpolice.org") Google searches ("APRA" and "public records") found no such procedures on any CPD website.

ACCESS/RI asks your office to direct the CPD to correct the issues raised in this complaint. Furthermore we ask that the Attorney General file suit pursuant to § 38-2-8(b) in the Superior Court and seek civil fines for these knowing and willful—or, at a minimum, clearly reckless—violations of APRA pursuant to § 38-2-9(d).

Sincerely,

Linda Lotridge Levin
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ACCESS/RI
Attachments (2)