

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

December 17, 2014

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

RE: **Complaint Against Cumberland 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 Cumberland 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 sent a staffer to the CPD on May 19, 2014 to request "The log of arrests made over the past seven (7) days, including: (1) full name of the arrested adult; (2) home address of the arrested adult, unless doing so would identify a crime victim; (3) year of birth of the arrested adult; (4) charge or charges; (5) date of the arrest; (6) time of the arrest; (7) gender of the arrested adult; (8) race of the arrested adult; and (9) name of the arresting officer." R.I.G.L. § 38-2-3.2.

When asked, the staffer filled out the request form and left a phone number. The following day the CPD called for an email address and then sent arrest logs for the previous five (5) days from the date of the request (Appendix A).

After emailing five times, MuckRock received the final two days of the logs (Appendix B), but the CPD Deputy Chief continued to insist that state law only required release of five (5) days of arrest logs. Though ultimately responsive, the experience of the MuckRock staff clearly demonstrates the CPD does not understand their obligations under the APRA.

We ask that the Attorney General direct the CPD to correct the issues raised in this complaint and clarify with the CPD their obligations under the APRA.

Sincerely,

Linda Lotridge Levin  
LLLevin@uri.edu  
ACCESS/RI

Attachments (2)