

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 Office of the Auditor General 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 Rhode Island Office of the Auditor General (herein "OAG") 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 OAG did not appear on those lists provided by your office.

MuckRock also requested from the OAG "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 you can see, the OAG never responded to the request, violating § 38-2-3(e).

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 on or before August 21, 2014 of the OAG websites and site specific ("site:www.oag.state.ri.us") Google searches ("APRA" and "public records") found no such procedures on any OAG website.

ACCESS/RI asks your office to direct the OAG 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
LLLevin@uri.edu
ACCESS/RI
Attachments (2)