



PHILIP D. MURPHY  
Governor

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State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
101 SOUTH BROAD STREET  
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JACQUELYN A. SUÁREZ  
Commissioner

## FINAL DECISION

### July 29, 2025 Government Records Council Meeting

Abussamaa Rasul Ramziddin  
Complainant

Complaint No. 2023-223

v.

NJ Department of Law & Public Safety,  
Division of Criminal Justice  
Custodian of Record

At the July 29, 2025, public meeting, the Government Records Council (“Council”) considered the July 22, 2025, Findings and Recommendations of the Executive Director and all related documentation submitted by the parties. The Council voted unanimously to adopt the entirety of said findings and recommendations. The Council, therefore, finds that:

1. The Custodian has borne his burden of proof that he timely responded to the Complainant’s five (5) OPRA requests. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6. Specifically, the Custodian timely responded within the statutorily mandated time frame obtaining an extension to a date certain, obtained a second extension (2<sup>nd</sup>) to a date certain before the expiration of the first (1<sup>st</sup>) extension, and responded in writing prior to the expiration of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) extension pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g), N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i), and Werner v. N.J. Civil Serv. Comm’n, GRC Complaint No. 2011-151 (December 2012).
2. The Complainant’s July 28, 2023 request No. 1 seeking “[r]ecords and information” and portions of request Nos. 2 through 5 seeking “records and following information” are invalid because they failed to identify any specific government record. MAG Entm’t, LLC v. Div. of ABC, 375 N.J. Super. 534 (App. Div. 2005); Bent v. Stafford Police Dep’t, 381 N.J. Super. 30, 37 (App. Div. 2005); Morgano v. Essex Cnty. Prosecutor’s Office, GRC Complaint No. 2007-156 (October 2008); Feiler-Jampel v. Somerset Cnty. Prosecutor’s Office, GRC Complaint No. 2007-190 (Interim Order dated March 26, 2008). Thus, no unlawful denial of access to these requests occurred because they were invalid. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6.
3. The Custodian has borne his burden of proof that he lawfully denied access to the portions of the Complainant’s July 28, 2023 OPRA request Nos. 2 through 5 seeking disciplinary records. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6; N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10; Merino v. Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus, GRC Complaint No. 2003-110 (Interim Order dated March 11, 2004).

This is the final administrative determination in this matter. Any further review should be pursued in the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey within forty-five (45) days. Information about the appeals process can be obtained from the Appellate Division Clerk's Office, Hughes Justice Complex, 25 W. Market St., PO Box 006, Trenton, NJ 08625-0006. Proper service of submissions pursuant to any appeal is to be made to the Council in care of the Executive Director at the State of New Jersey Government Records Council, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 819, Trenton, NJ 08625-0819.

Final Decision Rendered by the  
Government Records Council  
On The 29<sup>th</sup> Day of July 2025

John A. Alexy, Chair  
Government Records Council

I attest the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the Government Records Council.

Steven Ritardi, Esq., Secretary  
Government Records Council

**Decision Distribution Date: July 31, 2025**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
GOVERNMENT RECORDS COUNCIL**

**Findings and Recommendations of the Executive Director  
July 29, 2025 Council Meeting**

**Abussamaa Rasul Ramziddin<sup>1</sup>  
Complainant**

**GRC Complaint No. 2023-223**

**v.**

**N.J. Department of Law & Public Safety,  
Division of Criminal Justice<sup>2</sup>  
Custodial Agency**

**Records Relevant to Complaint:** Five (5) OPRA requests. See Exhibit A.

**Custodian of Record:** Lt. Edward Augustyn

**Request Received by Custodian:** August 14, 2023

**Response Made by Custodian:** August 22, 2023; August 30, 2023; September 8, 2023

**GRC Complaint Received:** September 14, 2023

**Background<sup>3</sup>**

**Request and Response:**

On July 28, 2023, the Complainant submitted five (5) Open Public Records Act (“OPRA”) requests to the Custodian seeking the above-mentioned records. On August 22, 2023, the Custodian responded in writing extending the response time frame through August 30, 2023. On August 30, 2023, the Custodian responded in writing again extending the response time frame through September 8, 2023.

On September 8, 2023, the Custodian responded in writing denying all five (5) OPRA requests as invalid. The Custodian noted that in response to OPRA request No. 1, item No. 4, the Custodian provided a link to the New Jersey Attorney General’s Major Disciplines dashboard (“Dashboard”).

**Denial of Access Complaint:**

On September 14, 2023, the Complainant filed a Denial of Access Complaint with the Government Records Council (“GRC”). The Complainant asserted that the Custodian failed to

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<sup>1</sup> No legal representation listed on record.

<sup>2</sup> Represented by Deputy Attorney General Vivek N. Mehta.

<sup>3</sup> The parties may have submitted additional correspondence or made additional statements/assertions in the submissions identified herein. However, the Council includes in the Findings and Recommendations of the Executive Director the submissions necessary and relevant for the adjudication of this complaint.

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timely respond to his OPRA requests as required by N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i).

The Complainant disputed the Custodian's denial on the basis that his OPRA requests were invalid. The Complainant contended that this denial violated his rights to obtain records guaranteed by OPRA and the New Jersey Constitution. The Complainant further argued that the Custodian "violated the public policy of transparency and accountability;" thereby undermining the trust and confidence of the public as discussed in Rivera v. Union Cnty. Prosecutor's Office, 250 N.J. 124 (2022). The Complainant contended that Riveria supported his position that he should have been given access to the records sought here.<sup>4</sup>

The Complainant contended that the records sought, including personnel information and lawsuit statistics, are readily available under OPRA. The Complainant further argued that disclosure of this information is important to ensure government transparency and accountability. The Complainant contended that public agencies have an obligation to comply with the "Square Corners Doctrine" set forth in FMC Stores, Co. v. Borough of Morris Plains, 100 N.J. 418 (1985).<sup>5</sup> The Complainant thus requested that the GRC overturn the Custodian's denial of access.

#### Statement of Information:

On October 18, 2023, the Custodian filed a Statement of Information ("SOI"). The Custodian certified that he received the Complainant's five (5) OPRA requests on August 14, 2023. The Custodian certified that he did not perform a search because the requests were overly broad and required research. The Custodian certified that following two (2) extensions with an end date of September 8, 2023, he responded in writing on that day denying the Complainant's five (5) OPRA requests as invalid. The Custodian noted that he provided a link to the Dashboard in response to OPRA request No. 1, item No. 4.

The Custodian contended that this complaint should be dismissed because he lawfully denied access to the Complainant's OPRA requests. The Custodian argued that the July 28, 2023 OPRA request No. 1, which sought "records and information" related to the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office ("MCPO"), failed to identify specific records. The Custodian argued that an open-ended search is not contemplated per MAG Entm't, LLC v. Div. of ABC, 375 N.J. Super. 534, 546 (App. Div. 2005); Bent v. Stafford Police Dep't, 381 N.J. Super. 30, 37 (App. Div. 2005); and Lagerkvist v. Office of Governor, 443 N.J. Super. 230, 237 (App. Div. 2015), among other decisions. The Custodian argued that even if the Complainant identified specific litigation, the requests still seek any State or Federal litigation and settlement record on file within the Division of Criminal Justice ("DCJ") for a five-year period.

The Custodian further argued that the remaining four (4) OPRA requests, which seek "records and information" of four (4) MCPO employees, including litigation and disciplinary

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<sup>4</sup> The Complainant included a discussion of denials proffered by the Mercer County Prosecutor's Officer for requests that became the subject of Ramziddin v. Mercer Cnty. Prosecutor's Office, GRC Complaint No. 2023-204 (being concurrently adjudicated with this complaint). Those arguments will not be addressed here because they are not properly before the GRC in this complaint.

<sup>5</sup> FMC Stores, Co., decided 17 years before the enactment of OPRA, addressed whether a statutory deadline for property tax appeals could be modified.

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records fairs no better. The Custodian argued that these requests would similarly require the type of research not contemplated under OPRA. The Custodian also noted that the records sought in these requests could fall within the criminal investigatory, personnel, and Internal Affairs (“IA”) exemptions at N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1; N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10; and N.J.S.A. 40A:14-181 per Riveria, 250 N.J. 124. The Custodian also noted that under OPRA, a requestor is required to submit their request to the “appropriate custodian in charge of the record” as stated in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g).

The Custodian lastly argued that he did not knowingly and willfully violate OPRA. The Custodian contended that he timely responded, his denial was lawful, and although not required, he directed the Complainant to the Dashboard. The Custodian argued that he could not have knowingly and willfully violated OPRA because he did not violate the provisions thereof.

#### Additional Submissions:

On October 22, 2023, the Complainant submitted a response to the SOI. Therein, the Complainant objected to the SOI as “in violation of the GRC response time.”<sup>6</sup> The Complainant contended that this failure resulted in “egregious ethical violations” and that the GRC should provide its position on whether the SOI was timely.

On July 15, 2025, the GRC sent a request for additional information to the Custodian. Therein, the GRC stated that in the SOI, the Custodian stated that he sought two (2) extensions of time to respond to the subject OPRA request; however, he did not identify dates or provide supporting documentation. The GRC thus asked the Custodian to provide a certification responding to the following:

1. On what date did you respond obtaining the first (1<sup>st</sup>) extension of time to respond? Please provide documentation to support the date and length of extension.
2. On what date did you respond obtaining the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) extension of time to respond? Please provide documentation to support the date and length of extension.

The GRC requested that the Custodian submit his certification by July 18, 2025.

On July 18, 2025, the Custodian responded to the GRC’s request for additional information. Therein, the Custodian certified that because he received the subject OPRA requests on August 14, 2023, the final business day to respond in writing was August 23, 2023. The Custodian certified that he responded in writing on August 22, 2023, obtaining the first (1<sup>st</sup>) extension through August 30, 2023. The Custodian further certified that he responded again in writing on August 30, 2023, obtaining the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) extension through September 8, 2023. The Custodian certified that he was attaching those written responses in support of his certification.

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<sup>6</sup> The GRC notes that Custodian’s Counsel sought and was granted an extension of time until October 18, 2023, to file the SOI. The Complainant was copied on that correspondence and acknowledged receipt of the approved extension via e-mail on October 2, 2023. The Complainant sent objections to the GRC following that extension asserting that Custodian’s Counsel was attempting to entangle different pending complaints

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## Analysis

### Timeliness

OPRA mandates that a custodian must either grant or deny access to requested records within seven (7) business days from receipt of said request. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i). A custodian's failure to respond within the required seven (7) business days results in a "deemed" denial. Id. Further, a custodian's response, either granting or denying access, must be in writing pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g).<sup>7</sup> Thus, a custodian's failure to respond in writing to a complainant's OPRA request either granting access, denying access, seeking clarification or requesting an extension of time within the statutorily mandated seven (7) business days results in a "deemed" denial of the complainant's OPRA request pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g), N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i), and Kelley v. Twp. of Rockaway, GRC Complaint No. 2007-11 (Interim Order October 31, 2007).

In Werner v. N.J. Civil Serv. Comm'n, GRC Complaint No. 2011-151 (December 2012), the Council addressed whether the custodian lawfully sought an extension of time to respond to the complainant's OPRA request. The Council concluded that, because the custodian requested an extension of time in writing within the statutorily mandated seven (7) business days and provided an anticipated date by which the requested records would be made available, the custodian properly requested the extension pursuant to OPRA. See also Rivera v. City of Plainfield Police Dep't (Union), GRC Complaint No. 2009-317 (May 2011); Criscione v. Town of Guttenberg (Hudson), GRC Complaint No. 2010-68 (November 2010); Starkey v. N.J. Dep't of Transp., GRC Complaint Nos. 2007-315, 2007-316 and 2007-317 (February 2009).

Here, the Complainant contended in the Denial of Access Complaint that the Custodian failed to timely respond to his OPRA requests. In the SOI, the Custodian certified that he received the subject OPRA requests on August 14, 2023, took two (2) extensions to address the OPRA request, and ultimately responded in writing on September 8, 2023, denying the OPRA requests. However, the Custodian did not identify dates for those extensions or provide supporting documentation. In response to a request for additional information, the Custodian certified that he sought extensions on August 22, 2023, and August 30, 2023, with documentation to support those responses. A review of the facts and evidence thus reveals that based on Werner, the Custodian did not violate OPRA's timeliness provisions.

Therefore, the Custodian has borne his burden of proof that he timely responded to the Complainant's five (5) OPRA requests. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6. Specifically, the Custodian timely responded within the statutorily mandated time frame obtaining an extension to a date certain, obtained a second extension (2<sup>nd</sup>) to a date certain before the expiration of the first (1<sup>st</sup>) extension, and responded in writing prior to the expiration of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) extension pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g), N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i), and Werner, GRC 2011-151.

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<sup>7</sup> A custodian's written response either granting access, denying access, seeking clarification or requesting an extension of time within the statutorily mandated seven (7) business days, even if said response is not on the agency's official OPRA request form, is a valid response pursuant to OPRA.

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## **Validity of Request**

The New Jersey Appellate Division has held that:

While OPRA provides an alternative means of access to government documents not otherwise exempted from its reach, *it is not intended as a research tool litigants may use to force government officials to identify and siphon useful information. Rather, OPRA simply operates to make identifiable government records “readily accessible for inspection, copying, or examination.”* N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.

[MAG, 375 N.J. Super. at 546 (emphasis added).]

The court reasoned that:

Most significantly, the request failed to identify with any specificity or particularity the governmental records sought. *MAG provided neither names nor any identifiers other than a broad generic description of a brand or type of case prosecuted by the agency in the past.* Such an open-ended demand required the Division's records custodian to manually search through all of the agency's files, analyze, compile and collate the information contained therein, and identify for MAG the cases relative to its selective enforcement defense in the OAL litigation. Further, once the cases were identified, the records custodian would then be required to evaluate, sort out, and determine the documents to be produced and those otherwise exempted.

[Id. at 549 (emphasis added).]

The court further held that, “[u]nder OPRA, *agencies are required to disclose only ‘identifiable’ government records* not otherwise exempt . . . . In short, OPRA does not countenance open-ended searches of an agency's files.” Id. (emphasis added). Bent, 381 N.J. Super. at 37;<sup>8</sup> N.J. Builders Ass’n v. N.J. Council on Affordable Hous., 390 N.J. Super. 166, 171 (App. Div. 2007); Schuler v. Borough of Bloomsbury, GRC Complaint No. 2007-151 (February 2009).

Invalid OPRA requests typically fall into three (3) categories. The first is a request that is overly broad (i.e., requests seeking “any and all records” generically), which requires a custodian to conduct research. MAG, 375 N.J. Super. 534; Donato v. Twp. of Union, GRC Complaint No. 2005-182 (January 2007). The second is those requests seeking information or asking questions. See e.g. Rummel v. Cumberland Cnty. Bd. of Chosen Freeholders, GRC Complaint No. 2011-168 (December 2012). The final category is a request that is either not on an official OPRA request form or does not invoke OPRA. See e.g. Naples v. N.J. Motor Vehicle Comm’n, GRC Complaint No. 2008-97 (December 2008).

In Morgano v. Essex Cnty. Prosecutor’s Office, GRC Complaint No. 2007-156 (October 2008), the complainant filed an OPRA request for two entire prosecutor’s office files. The Council

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<sup>8</sup> Affirmed on appeal regarding Bent v. Stafford Police Department, GRC Case No. 2004-78 (October 2004). Abussamaa Rasul Ramziddin v. N.J. Department of Law & Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, 2023-223 – Findings and Recommendations of the Executive Director

relied upon MAG, 375 N.J. Super. at 546; Bent, 381 N.J. Super. at 37; and Asarnow v. Dep't of Labor, GRC Complaint No. 2006-24 (May 2006), in determining that the request was overbroad and of the nature of a blanket request for a class of various documents rather than a request for a specific government record. As such, the Council found that the custodian met her burden of proof in denying access to the responsive records.

Moreover, in Feiler-Jampel v. Somerset Cnty. Prosecutor's Office, GRC Complaint No. 2007-190 (Interim Order dated March 26, 2008), the Council similarly held that a request seeking “[a]ny and all documents and evidence” relating to an investigation being conducted by the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office was invalid, reasoning that:

[B]ecause the records requested comprise an entire SCPO file, the request is overbroad and of the nature of a blanket request for a class of various documents rather than a request for specific government records. Because OPRA does not require custodians to research files to discern which records may be responsive to a request, the Custodian had no legal duty to research the SCPO files to locate records potentially responsive to the Complainant’s request pursuant to the Superior Court’s decisions in [MAG], [Bent] and the Council’s decisions in [Asarnow, GRC 2006-24 and Morgano, GRC 2007-156].

[Id. See also Schulz v. NJ State Police, GRC Complaint No. 2014-390 (Interim Order dated July 28, 2015) (holding that the portion of the request seeking “all documents” was overly broad and thus invalid).]

Here, the Complainant’s July 28, 2023 OPRA request No. 1 sought “[r]ecords and information from.” various types of litigation, settlements, and of unidentified individuals terminated for certain reasons within time periods from 2018 or 2019 to 2023. The Complainant’s remaining OPRA requests sought in part “records and following information . . . [w]hich resulted in litigation, lawsuits and[/]or settlements and payouts” over various time frames. The Custodian responded denying the requests as invalid, among other bases, and this complaint followed. Therein, the Complainant contended that the Custodian’s denial was unlawful based on Rivera, 250 N.J. 124. In the SOI, the Custodian maintained his position that the requests were invalid because they required research and open-ended searches for an unknown set of records. In his SOI reply, the Complainant continued to argue that his requests were sufficiently specific.

Upon review, precedential case law supports that these portions of the Complainant’s July 28, 2023 request No. 1 and portions of request Nos. 2 through 5 were invalid. Specifically, as in Feiler-Jampel, GRC 2007-190, request No. 1 and those portions of request Nos. 2 through 5 seeking “[r]ecords” and “information” related to any litigation and settlements failed to identify those specifically sought. More specifically, the Custodian would have been required to review the entire universe of DCJ’s records to determine if any even tacitly addressed the perimeters of the Complainant’s requests. Thus, a plain reading of each of the Complainant’s requests, including the term “[r]ecords and information,” represent a blanket request for all documents maintained by DCJ that may have anything to do with litigation, settlements, and certain termination causes.



Further, the Complainant's overarching suggestion that any case law or OPRA automatically makes an OPRA request valid is not supported by copious case law on the validity issue. While OPRA provides that any limitations on access shall be construed in favor of the public's right, it does not abrogate a requestor's responsibility to identify specific types of records, as provided for in MAG and its progeny. Further, and contrary to the Complainant's assertions, no case law or amendments to OPRA have overturned the forgoing.

Accordingly, the Complainant's July 28, 2023 request No. 1 seeking "[r]ecords and information" and portions of request Nos. 2 through 5 seeking "records and following information" are invalid because they failed to identify any specific government record. MAG, 375 N.J. Super. at 546; Bent, 381 N.J. Super. at 37; Morgano, GRC 2007-156; Feiler-Jampel, GRC 2007-190. Thus, no unlawful denial of access to these requests occurred because they were invalid. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6.

### **Unlawful Denial of Access**

OPRA provides that government records made, maintained, kept on file, or received by a public agency in the course of its official business are subject to public access unless otherwise exempt. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1. A custodian must release all records responsive to an OPRA request "with certain exceptions." N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1. Additionally, OPRA places the burden on a custodian to prove that a denial of access to records is lawful pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6.

Having addressed the Complainant's July 28, 2023 request No. 1 and portions of the remaining requests, the GRC now turns to those remaining portions of the July 28, 2023 OPRA request Nos. 2 through 5 seeking disciplinary records.

OPRA provides that:

Notwithstanding the provisions [OPRA] or any other law to the contrary, the personnel or pension records of any individual in the possession of a public agency, including but not limited to records relating to any grievance filed by or against an individual, shall not be considered a government record and shall not be made available for public access . . . .

[N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10.]

OPRA begins with a presumption against disclosure and "proceeds with a few narrow exceptions that . . . need to be considered." Kovalcik v. Somerset Cnty. Prosecutor's Office, 206 N.J. 581, 594 (2011). These are:

[A]n individual's name, title, position, salary, payroll record, length of service, date of separation and the reason therefore, and the amount and type of any pension received shall be government record;

[P]ersonnel or pension records of any individual shall be accessible when required to be disclosed by another law, when disclosure is essential to the performance of

official duties of a person duly authorized by this State or the United States, or when authorized by an individual in interest; and

[D]ata contained in information which disclose conformity with specific experiential, educational or medical qualifications required for government employment or for receipt of a public pension, but not including any detailed medical or psychological information, shall be a government record.

[Id.]

The Council has addressed whether personnel records not specifically identified in OPRA as disclosable were subject to disclosure. For instance, the Council has determined that records involving employee discipline or investigations into employee misconduct are properly classified as personnel records exempt from disclosure under N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10. In Merino v. Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus, GRC Complaint No. 2003-110 (Interim Order dated March 11, 2004), the Council found that records of complaints or internal reprimands against a municipal police officer were properly classified as personnel records encompassed within the provisions of N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10. For this reason, the Council concluded that “records of complaints filed against [the police officer] and/or reprimands [the officer] received are not subject to public access.” Id.; see also Wares v. Twp. of West Milford (Passaic), GRC Complaint No. 2014-274 (May 2015).

Here, portions of the Complainant’s July 28, 2023 OPRA request Nos. 2 through 5 sought “all disciplinary records, including written warning, reprimands, and any administrative reviews” for four (4) individuals from MCPO over differing periods of time. The Custodian denied the requests as invalid. This complaint followed, wherein the Complainant contended that his OPRA requests were specific and valid. The Complainant further argued that Riveria supported that he should have been given access to all records sought. In the SOI, the Custodian maintained his position that the requests were invalid, but also noted that the types of records sought would be exempt under N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10, among other bases.

Upon review, prevailing statutes and precedential case law are clear that disciplinary records are not disclosable under OPRA. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10; Merino, GRC 2003-110. Based on the forgoing, and notwithstanding the validity question, the Custodian’s denial of these portions was lawful under OPRA. Further, contrary to the Complainant’s complaint arguments, nothing in Rivera changes this position. In fact, Rivera addressed internal affairs records and specifically provided that, while exempt under OPRA, they may be disclosed under the common law.<sup>9</sup>

Accordingly, the Custodian has borne his burden of proof that he lawfully denied access to the portions of the Complainant’s July 28, 2023 OPRA request Nos. 2 through 5 seeking disciplinary records. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6; N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10; Merino, GRC 2003-110.

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<sup>9</sup> The GRC notes that given the Complainant was seeking records about MCPO personnel from DCJ, there is a question of whether DCJ would even possess the requested disciplinary records. However, the GRC will not consider this question because the Custodian in the SOI only alluded to a possession issue and has not certified that no records existed.

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## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The Executive Director respectfully recommends the Council find that:

1. The Custodian has borne his burden of proof that he timely responded to the Complainant's five (5) OPRA requests. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6. Specifically, the Custodian timely responded within the statutorily mandated time frame obtaining an extension to a date certain, obtained a second extension (2<sup>nd</sup>) to a date certain before the expiration of the first (1<sup>st</sup>) extension, and responded in writing prior to the expiration of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) extension pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g), N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i), and Werner v. N.J. Civil Serv. Comm'n, GRC Complaint No. 2011-151 (December 2012).
2. The Complainant's July 28, 2023 request No. 1 seeking "[r]ecords and information" and portions of request Nos. 2 through 5 seeking "records and following information" are invalid because they failed to identify any specific government record. MAG Entm't, LLC v. Div. of ABC, 375 N.J. Super. 534 (App. Div. 2005); Bent v. Stafford Police Dep't, 381 N.J. Super. 30, 37 (App. Div. 2005); Morgano v. Essex Cnty. Prosecutor's Office, GRC Complaint No. 2007-156 (October 2008); Feiler-Jampel v. Somerset Cnty. Prosecutor's Office, GRC Complaint No. 2007-190 (Interim Order dated March 26, 2008). Thus, no unlawful denial of access to these requests occurred because they were invalid. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6.
3. The Custodian has borne his burden of proof that he lawfully denied access to the portions of the Complainant's July 28, 2023 OPRA request Nos. 2 through 5 seeking disciplinary records. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6; N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10; Merino v. Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus, GRC Complaint No. 2003-110 (Interim Order dated March 11, 2004).

Prepared By: Frank F. Caruso  
Executive Director

July 22, 2025

# Exhibit A

## NEW JERSEY FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

### PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS TO OPEN GOVERNMENT

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ABUSSAMAA RASUL RAMZIDDIN  
207 HERITAGE COURT  
PENNINGTON, NEW JERSEY 08534-5285  
609.815.9187  
[abussamaaramziddin@gmail.com](mailto:abussamaaramziddin@gmail.com)

JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.  
OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST  
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
25 MARKET STREET P.O. 085  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

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MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.  
CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.  
OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST  
209 SOUTH BROAD STREET P.O.BOX 8068  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, 08650-0068

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Dear, Custodian of Records:

Under the New Jersey OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. in accordance with Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive. I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records of the requested individuals, and agencies.

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

25 MARKET STREET P.O. 085

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

209 SOUTH BROAD STREET P.O.BOX 8068

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, 08650-0068

Dear, Custodian of Records:

Under the New Jersey OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. in accordance with Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive. I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records of the requested individuals, and agencies.

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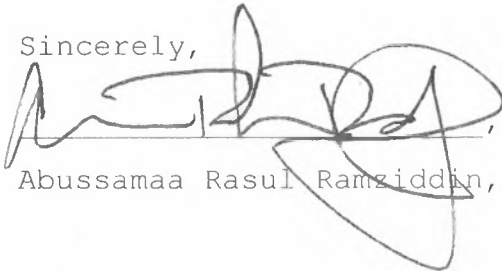
I REQUEST THE RECORDS AND FOLLOWING INFORMATION. Of The Mercer Prosecutors' Office. Which resulted in litigations, lawsuits, and or settlements and payouts. From the year beginning of 2018, to the present and current year of 2023.

1. Records and Information from litigation and lawsuits filed in State or Federal Courts, from the year beginning of 2018 to the present and current year of 2023.
2. Records and information from settlements and sums of payouts from litigation from the year beginning of 2018 to the present and current year of 2023.
3. Records and information from litigation and lawsuits filed as results of police misconducts, and police brutality. Beginning from the year 2018 until the current and present year 2023.
4. Records and information of officers who have been terminated due to official misconducts, abuse of the badge authority, and police brutality. Beginning from the year 2019 until the current and present year 2023.
5. If ther are any fees pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1-A-5(c) for searching or copying these records, please contact me to inform me if the cost will exceed (25) twenty-five dollars. However, I would also like to request a waiver of all fees

incurred in the disclosure of the requested information that is in the public interest and related to news gathering purposes, as it will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of obtaining discovery, and the investigations process and measures utilized by the New Jersey Attorney Generals' Office, and the Mercer County Prosecutors' Office, to ensure the protections of those of us who are senior citizens' and citizens living with disabilities, living off of fixed incomes. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes.

6. The New Jersey Open Public Records Act and the New Jersey Freedom of Information Act require a response time of Seven (7) business days. If access to the records and information I am requesting takes longer than this amount of time, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies, or the ability to inspect the requested records. If you DENY any or all this request, please CITE each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal in Writing to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law. Thank you for considering my requests.'

Sincerely,



Abussamaa Rasul Ramziddin,

CC: Abussamaa R. Ramziddin,

Custodian of Records, New Jersey Attorney Generals Office.

Custodian of Records for the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.

NEW JERSEY FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

**PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS TO OPEN GOVERNMENT**

ABUSSAMAA RASUL RAMZIDDIN  
207 HERITAGE COURT  
PENNINGTON, NEW JERSEY 08534-5285  
609.815.9187  
[abussamaaramziddin@gmail.com](mailto:abussamaaramziddin@gmail.com)

JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

25 MARKET STREET P.O. 085

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT  
REQUEST-OPRA.

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

209 SOUTH BROAD STREET P.O.BOX 8068

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, 08650-0068

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Under the New Jersey OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. in accordance with Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive. I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records of the requested individuals, and agencies.

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

25 MARKET STREET P.O. 085

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

209 SOUTH BROAD STREET P.O.BOX 8068

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, 08650-0068

Dear, Custodian of Records:

Under the New Jersey OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. in accordance with Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive. I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records of the requested individuals, and agencies.

I REQUEST THE RECORDS AND FOLLOWING INFORMATION. Of the Mercer Prosecutors' Office. Which resulted in litigations, lawsuits, and or settlements and payouts, Of MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR, ANGELO J. ONOFRI, ESQ. Beginning from the year of 2018 to the present and current year of 2023.

1. I also further request all disciplinary records, including written warnings, reprimands, and any administrative reviews, beginning from the year of 2018 to the present and current year of 2023.

Under the New Jersey OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. in accordance with Attorney General's Law Enforcement Directive's pursuant to Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive NO. 2022-14, and also Rivera v. Union County Prosecutor's Office. 250 N.J. 124(2022), requires that a range of internal affairs reports may be publicly accessible under the common law right of access upon request. I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records of the requested individuals, and agencies.

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2. If there are any fees pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1-A-5(c) for searching or copying these records, please contact me to inform me if the cost will exceed (25) twenty-five dollars.



However, I would also like to request a waiver of all fees incurred in the disclosure of the requested information that is in the public interest and related to news gathering purposes, as it will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of obtaining discovery, and the investigations process and measures utilized by the New Jersey Attorney Generals' Office, and the Mercer County Prosecutors' Office, to ensure the protections of those of us who are senior citizens' and citizens living with disabilities, living off of fixed incomes. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes.

3. The New Jersey Open Public Records Act and the New Jersey Freedom of Information Act require a response time of Seven (7) business days. If access to the records and information I am requesting takes longer than this amount of time, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies, or the ability to inspect the requested records. If you DENY any or all this request, please CITE each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal in Writing to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law. Thank you for considering my requests.'

Sincerely,  
  
Abussamaa Rasul Ramziddin,

CC: Abussamaa R. Ramziddin,

Custodian of Records, New Jersey Attorney General's Office.

Custodian of Records for the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.

NEW JERSEY FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS TO OPEN GOVERNMENT

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ABUSSAMAA RASUL RAMZIDDIN  
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JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

25 MARKET STREET P.O. 085

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT  
REQUEST-OPRA.

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

209 SOUTH BROAD STREET P.O.BOX 8068

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, 08650-0068

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Under the New Jersey OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. in accordance with Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive. I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records of the requested individuals, and agencies.

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

25 MARKET STREET P.O. 085

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

209 SOUTH BROAD STREET P.O.BOX 8068

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, 08650-0068

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I REQUEST THE RECORDS AND FOLLOWING INFORMATION. Of the Mercer Prosecutors' Office. Which resulted in litigations, lawsuits, and or settlements and payouts. From the year beginning of 2018, to the present and current year of 2023. **ASSISTANT MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR HEATHER HADLEY ESQ,** Beginning from the year of 2018 to the present and current year of 2023.

1. I also further request all disciplinary records, including written warnings, reprimands, and any administrative reviews, beginning from the year of 2018 to the present and current year of 2023.

Under the New Jersey OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. in accordance with Attorney General's Law Enforcement Directive's pursuant to Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive NO. 2022-14, and also Rivera v. Union County Prosecutor's Office. 250 N.J. 124(2022), requires that a range of internal affairs reports may be publicly accessible under the common law right of access upon request. I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records of the requested individuals, and agencies.

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Sincerely,

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Abussamaa Rasul Ramziddin,

CC: Abussamaa R. Ramziddin,

Custodian of Records, New Jersey Attorney General's Office.

Custodian of Records for the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.

NEW JERSEY FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

**PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS TO OPEN GOVERNMENT**

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207 HERITAGE COURT  
PENNINGTON, NEW JERSEY 08534-5285  
609.815.9187  
abussamaaramziddin@gmail.com

JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

25 MARKET STREET P.O. 085

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT  
REQUEST-OPRA.

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

209 SOUTH BROAD STREET P.O.BOX 8068

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, 08650-0068

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CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

25 MARKET STREET P.O. 085

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MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

209 SOUTH BROAD STREET P.O.BOX 8068

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, 08650-0068

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I REQUEST THE RECORDS AND FOLLOWING INFORMATION. Of the Mercer Prosecutors' Office. Which resulted in litigations, lawsuits, and or settlements and payouts. From the year beginning of 1991, to the year of 2017. **FORMER ASSISTANT MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR SKYLAR S. WEISSMAN ESQ.** Beginning from the year of 1991 to the year of 2017.

1. I also further request all disciplinary records, including written warnings, reprimands, and any administrative reviews, beginning from the year of 1991 to the year of 2017.

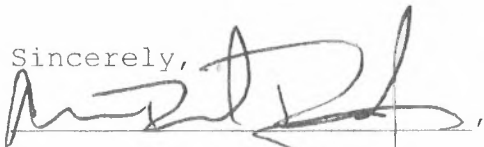
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Custodian of Records for the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.

NEW JERSEY FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS TO OPEN GOVERNMENT

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JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.  
OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

25 MARKET STREET P.O. 085

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT  
REQUEST-OPRA.

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.  
OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

209 SOUTH BROAD STREET P.O.BOX 8068

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CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

25 MARKET STREET P.O. 085

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MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST-OPRA.

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

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I REQUEST THE RECORDS AND FOLLOWING INFORMATION. Of the Mercer Prosecutors' Office. Which resulted in litigations, lawsuits, and or settlements and payouts. From the year beginning of 2018, to the present and current year of 2023. Of **MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE DETECTIVE ALICIA BERGONDO**. Beginning from the year of 2018 to the present and current year of 2023.

1. I also further request all disciplinary records, including written warnings, reprimands, and any administrative reviews, beginning from the year of 2018 to the present and current year of 2023.

Under the New Jersey OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. in accordance with Attorney General's Law Enforcement Directive's pursuant to Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive NO. 2022-14, and also **Rivera v. Union County Prosecutor's Office**. 250 N.J. 124(2022), requires that a range of internal affairs reports may be publicly accessible under the common law right of access upon request. I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records of the requested individuals, and agencies.

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CC: Abussamaa R. Ramziddin,

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Custodian of Records for the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.