



NEW JERSEY GOVERNMENT RECORDS COUNCIL

Administrative Complaint Disposition – All Records Responsive Provided in a Timely Manner

Mark-Brian Kline
Complainant

GRC Complaint No. 2026-9

v.

Township of Hazlet (Monmouth)
Custodial Agency

Custodian of Record: Mary L. Lynch
Request Received by Custodian: January 7, 2026
GRC Complaint Received: January 12, 2026

Complaint Disposition: The Custodian certified that all oaths of office¹ responsive to the subject OPRA request² were provided to the Complainant within the statutorily mandated response time.³ Additionally, the Complainant failed to provide any evidence to contradict the Custodian’s certification.⁴ Thus, this complaint shall be dismissed because the Custodian timely provided all responsive records.⁵

Applicable OPRA Provision: “A custodian shall promptly comply with a request to inspect, examine, copy, or provide a copy of a government record.” N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g).

“Unless a shorter time period is otherwise provided by statute, regulation, or executive order, a custodian of a government record shall grant access to a government record . . . as soon as possible, but not later than seven business days after receiving the request, provided that the record is currently available and not in storage or archived.” N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i).

¹ The GRC notes that oaths of office are expressly exempt from disclosure under N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1. See Kaufmann, Jr. v. N.J. Office of the Attorney General, GRC Complaint No. 2022-178 (May 2023).

² The Complainant sought additional records that are not at issue in this complaint.

³ The Complainant argued in his Amended Denial of Access Complaint that custodians are required to “certify their non-existence after a reasonable search.” However, no provision in OPRA requires a custodian to include a legal certification attesting to either the search conducted or the existence of records as part of a response to an OPRA request.

⁴ The Complainant argued that four (4) resolutions indicated that additional oaths of office exist; however, there is no language in those resolutions supporting his position.

⁵ The Complainant contended in his Amended Denial of Access Complaint that “record-keeping” issues are within the purview of the GRC; however, he is incorrect. Instead, the GRC has no authority over the accuracy or content of record, nor does it have authority over retention and destruction schedules. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-7; Kwanzaa v. Dep’t of Corr., GRC Complaint No. 2004-167 (March 2005); McBride v. N.J. Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness, GRC Complaint No. 2020-250 (June 2022).



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.

Effective Date of Disposition: February 27, 2026

Prepared By: Frank F. Caruso
Executive Director

Date: February 17, 2026

Distribution Date: February 26, 2026