



NEW JERSEY GOVERNMENT RECORDS COUNCIL
Administrative Complaint Disposition – Motion to File Within Time Denied

William Santiago
Complainant
v.

GRC Complaint No. 2026-291

Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority
Custodial Agency

Custodian of Record: Laurie J. Lukaszyk
Request Received by Custodian: March 30, 2026
GRC Complaint Received: May 22, 2026

Complaint Disposition: The Complainant verified the instant complaint on May 20, 2026,¹ alleging that he was denied access to records responsive to his OPRA request on March 31, 2026, or fifty (50) days prior. The Complainant argued that his complaint should be accepted within time because the Jersey City Utilities Municipal Authority (“MUA”) and the City of Jersey City (“City”) sent him conflicting responses regarding which entity maintained the requested records.

On June 15, 2026, the Custodian submitted an opposition response to the Complainant’s Motion to File Within Time. The Custodian certified the Complainant acknowledges that MUA responded and denied his OPRA request on March 31, 2026. The Custodian certified, the Complainant had sufficient time to file a Denial of Access Complaint with the GRC before the statutory deadline but instead sought the records with the City. The Custodian further certified the Complainant’s decision to pursue additional inquiries with the City did not prevent timely filing or excuse compliance with the statutory deadline.

Upon review, the GRC is not persuaded that this complaint should be accepted as filed within time. The Complainant does not provide correlating date information about his OPRA request to the City proving that he could not timely file this complaint against the MUA. Moreover, after receiving MUA’s denial response, the Complainant could have filed a Denial of Access Complaint with the GRC before the filing deadline, while simultaneously seeking the records from the City. Thus, the Complainant failed to show good cause to permit the complaint to proceed out of time. Therefore, this complaint shall be dismissed.

Applicable OPRA Provision: “A person who is denied access to a government record by the custodian of the record, at the option of the requestor who is accurately identified by name, may, within 45 days of the date of denial . . . file a complaint with the Government Records Council” N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6.

¹ The Complainant did not submit his complaint until May 18, 2026, which the GRC returned on May 19, 2026, as incomplete due to lack of a motion to file within time. The Complainant properly filed his complaint on May 20, 2026, including a motion to file within time.



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: June 30, 2026

Prepared By: Rose-Valda Julceus
Staff Attorney

Date: June 23, 2026

Distribution Date: July 1, 2026