

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Jarrel Baker,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2024-0810

Roderick Porter, Chief, Police Department,  
City of Bridgeport; Police Department, City  
of Bridgeport; and City of Bridgeport,

Respondents

November 19, 2025

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on April 24, 2025, September 24, 2025, and October 30, 2025, at which times the complainant and the respondents appeared, stipulated to certain facts and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint. The complainant, who is incarcerated, appeared via teleconference, pursuant to the January 2004 memorandum of understanding between the Commission and the Department of Correction. See Docket No. CV 03-0826293, Anthony Sinchak v. FOIC, Superior Court, J.D. of Hartford at Hartford, Corrected Order dated January 27, 2004 (Sheldon J.).

After the October 30, 2025 hearing on this matter, by order of the undersigned hearing officer, the respondents submitted an after-filed exhibit, which has been admitted into evidence, without objection, and marked as follows: Respondents' Exhibit 3 (after-filed): affidavit of Sergeant Sigrist, signed October 31, 2025.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found and conclusions of law are reached:

1. The respondents are public agencies within the meaning of §1-200(1), G.S.
2. It is found that, by form dated November 14, 2024, the complainant requested copies of records related to a criminal murder investigation with reference number: 2000088882.
3. It is found that, by letter dated December 5, 2024, the respondents acknowledged the complainant's request and informed him that there were no records responsive to his request. It is also found that, by the same letter, the respondents informed the complainant that their search revealed records of the type requested by the complainant for a separate criminal investigation with reference number: 20-83454 and asked the complainant whether that was the case file he had actually meant to request. It is further found that the complainant affirmed that 20-83454 was the correct reference number, and the parties stipulated that the responsive records at issue relate to such investigation.

4. By letter of complaint, dated November 22, 2024 and received and filed December 5, 2024, the complainant appealed to this Commission, alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information (“FOI”) Act by failing to provide copies of the following records:

- (a) “[a]ny and all phone records of Nelson Hines/Johnny Desilva/Alana Rhodes/Jarrel Baker”; and
- (b) “[a]ny and all phone recording/audio recording of Nelson Hines”.

The complainant also requested the imposition of a civil penalty against the respondents.

5. Section 1-200(5), G.S., provides:

“[p]ublic records or files” means any recorded data or information relating to the conduct of the public’s business prepared, owned, used, received or retained by a public agency, or to which a public agency is entitled to receive a copy by law or contract under 1-218, whether such data or information be handwritten, typed, tape-recorded, videotaped, printed, photostated, photographed or recorded by any other method.

6. Section 1-210(a), G.S., provides, in relevant part:

[e]xcept as otherwise provided by any federal law or state statute, all records maintained or kept on file by any public agency, whether or not such records are required by any law or by any rule or regulation, shall be public records and every person shall have the right to ... (3) receive a copy of such records in accordance with section 1-212.

7. Section 1-212(a), G.S., provides, in relevant part: “[a]ny person applying in writing shall receive, promptly upon request, a plain, facsimile, electronic or certified copy of any public record.”

8. It is concluded that the requested records, to the extent they exist and are maintained by the respondents, are public records within the meaning of §§1-200(5) and 1-210(a), G.S.

9. At the April 24, 2025 hearing on this matter, the respondents’ witness testified, and it is found, that, as of April 21, 2025, the respondents had completed compiling and redacting all paper records responsive to the complainant’s request described in paragraph 2, above, that are maintained by the respondent police department, consisting of approximately 300 to 500 pages. The respondents’ witness also testified, and it is found, that he redacted from such records witness statements, witness names, and other personally identifying information such as social security numbers.

10. It is found that, subsequent to the April 24, 2025 and September 24, 2025 hearings, the respondents provided paper copies of all responsive records described in paragraph 9, above, with redactions, to the complainant through the Department of Correction (“DOC”). It is also found that, during the same time period, the respondents provided a flash drive, containing copies of all responsive audio and video records, to the complainant through the DOC.<sup>1</sup>

11. It is found that, included on the flash drive described in paragraph 10, above, are interview recordings of Nelson Hines. It is found that the respondents do not maintain any additional audio recordings of Nelson Hines.

12. It is therefore found that the respondents provided the complainant with all records, described in paragraph 4(b), above, that exist and are maintained by the respondents.

13. At the September 24, 2025 and October 30, 2025 hearings, the complainant testified that he received responsive phone records for Nelson Hines, as described in paragraph 4(a), above. The complainant also testified, however, that he had not received responsive phone records for Johnny Desilva, Alana Rhodes, Daron Jones,<sup>2</sup> and Jarrel Baker (i.e. the complainant).<sup>3</sup>

14. At the October 30, 2025 hearing, the respondents’ witness testified, and it is found, that the respondents only maintained phone records for Nelson Hines, which were provided to the complainant. The respondents’ witness also testified, and it is found, that although they confiscated the phone of Alana Rhodes, the contents of such phone were never downloaded and the phone was subsequently returned. The respondents’ witness further testified, and it is found, that although they confiscated the complainant’s phone, the contents of such phone were never downloaded and the phone remains held as evidence and cannot be removed without a court order.

15. Based upon Respondents’ Exhibit 3, an affidavit of Sergeant Sigrist, it is found that there is no record of the respondent police department having the phone of Johnny Desilva, nor any download of the contents of such phone.

16. It is therefore found that the respondents do not maintain responsive phone records for Johnny Desilva, Alana Rhodes, or Jarrel Baker. Consequently, it is found that the

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission notes that the complainant stated that, due to his incarceration, he was not able to review the flash drive and the DOC would not retain such flash drive on his behalf. The Commission also notes that the respondents suggested the complainant find someone outside of the correction facility to take possession of the flash drive on his behalf.

<sup>2</sup> With regard to the complainant’s contention that the respondents failed to provide phone records for Daron Jones, it is found that such allegation was not included in the complainant’s FOI complaint, described in paragraph 4, above. It is also found, however, that the contents of Daron Jones’ phone were never downloaded, so there are no responsive records.

<sup>3</sup> The Commission notes that, during the hearings on this matter, the complainant also alleged that the respondents failed to disclose other records, which are outside the scope of his complaint, described in paragraph 4, above, and therefore will not be further addressed herein.

respondents provided the complainant all records, described in paragraph 4(a), above, that exist and are maintained by the respondents.

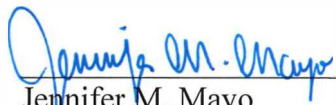
17. It is therefore concluded, based upon all of the foregoing, that the respondents did not violate the FOI Act, as alleged in the complaint.

18. Based upon the foregoing conclusion, the complainant's request for the imposition of a civil penalty need not be addressed.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above-captioned complaint:

1. The complaint is dismissed.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of November 19, 2025.

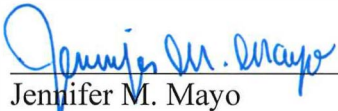
  
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Jennifer M. Mayo  
Acting Clerk of the Commission

PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-180(c), G.S., THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF EACH PARTY AND THE MOST RECENT MAILING ADDRESS, PROVIDED TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION, OF THE PARTIES OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.

THE PARTIES TO THIS CONTESTED CASE ARE:

**JARREL BAKER, #332231**, MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution, 1153 East Street, South, Suffield, CT 06078

**RODERICK PORTER, CHIEF, POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF BRIDGEPORT; POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF BRIDGEPORT; AND CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**, c/o Attorney Raymond J. Rigat, Office of the City Attorney, 999 Broad Street, 2nd Floor, Bridgeport, CT 06604

  
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Jennifer M. Mayo  
Acting Clerk of the Commission