

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Ahmaad Lane,

Complainant

against

Docket # FIC 2024-0823

Angel Quiros, Commissioner, State of  
Connecticut, Department of Correction; and  
State of Connecticut, Department of  
Correction,

Respondents

November 19, 2025

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on May 2, 2025, at which time the complainant and respondents appeared 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 Anthony Sinchak v. Freedom of Information Commission, Docket No. CV 03-0826293, Superior Court, J.D. of Hartford at Hartford, Corrected Order dated January 27, 2004 (Sheldon, J.).

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, on December 2, 2024, the complainant submitted a written records request to the respondents. Such request sought “the Facility (General) logs/reports of all shakedown searches that took place on April 9, 2024 of Cheshire CI South i [sic] unit.” (Emphasis in original.) Such request also sought: “All Incident Report Package list of contents pursuant to CN 6601 Form, shakedown sheet(s) pertaining to this date in question” (hereinafter “December 2, 2024 request”).
3. By letter, postmarked on December 10, 2024, and received and filed with the Commission on December 12, 2024, the complainant appealed to this Commission, alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information (“FOI”) Act by failing to promptly provide records responsive to his December 2, 2024 request. The complainant also requested the imposition of a civil penalty against the respondents.
4. Section 1-200(5), G.S., provides the following in relevant part:

“Public 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, [...] whether such data or information be handwritten, typed, tape-recorded,

videotaped, printed, photostated, photographed or recorded by any other method.

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

Except 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.

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

7. 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.

8. As described in paragraph 3, above, the complainant alleged in his appeal that the respondents had failed to promptly provide records responsive to his December 2, 2024 request.

9. Section 1-206, G.S., provides the following in relevant part:

(a) Any denial of the right to inspect or copy records provided for under section 1-210 shall be made to the person requesting such right by the public agency official who has custody or control of the public record, in writing, within four business days of such request... Failure to comply with a request to so inspect or copy such public record within the applicable number of business days shall be deemed to be a denial.

(b)(1) Any person denied the right to inspect or copy records under section 1-210 or... denied any other right conferred by the Freedom of Information Act may appeal therefrom to the Freedom of Information Commission, by filing a notice of appeal with said commission. A notice of appeal shall be filed not later than thirty days after such denial...

10. In City of Bridgeport v. Freedom of Info. Comm’n, 222 Conn. App. 17, 41-42 (2023), cert. denied, 348 Conn. 936 (2024) (“Bridgeport”), the Court concluded that “a denial of a request, either in fact or pursuant to [§1-206(a), G.S.], is an essential fact that goes to the merits of a complaint before the [C]ommission,” and “does not implicate the [C]ommission’s jurisdiction...” Thus, whether the complainant’s request was deemed to be denied under §1-206(a), G.S., at the time the complaint was filed does not go to the Commission’s jurisdiction, but to the merits of whether the respondents violated the FOI Act.

11. The Court in Bridgeport also concluded that, when determining whether a request sent by mail has been deemed denied pursuant to §1-206(a), G.S., the operative date is the date that the request was received by the public agency. Id. at 57.

12. Absent any additional information, it is found that the complainant's December 2, 2024 request was akin to a request "sent by mail" as contemplated by the court in Bridgeport. It is found in this matter that the complainant, who is incarcerated, submitted the request at issue to the respondents through an internal agency delivery system, which is akin to submitting the request by mail via the postal service.

13. It is found that the respondents provided a letter to the complainant, dated December 12, 2024, acknowledging receipt of a records request from the complainant that same day and assigning it an internal reference number: R003264-121224.<sup>1</sup> It is further found that the complainant did not dispute the respondents' receipt date at the contested case hearing in this matter.

14. It is found that, as of December 10, 2024, the postmarked date of the complainant's appeal to the Commission described in paragraph 3, above, the respondents had not yet received the request at issue and therefore had not denied it, or denied any other right under the FOI Act within the meaning of §1-206(b)(1), G.S.

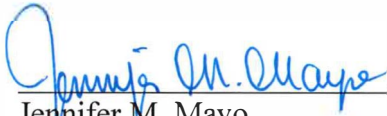
15. It is concluded, therefore, under the facts of this case, that the complainant had no right to appeal under §1-206(b)(1), G.S., and that the respondents did not violate the FOI Act.

16. The Commission, in its discretion, declines to impose civil penalties against the respondents in this matter.

The following order 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.

  
Jennifer M. Mayo  
Acting Clerk of the Commission

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission notes that the respondents, in their acknowledgment letter, referred to the records request as the "[r]equest of December 12, 2024." However, neither party disputed that such acknowledgement letter pertained to the December 2, 2024 request at issue.

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:

**AHMAAD LANE, #220753**, MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution, 1153 East Street, South, Suffield, CT 06080

**ANGEL QUIROS, COMMISSIONER, STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION; AND STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**, c/o Attorney Jennifer Lepore, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction, 24 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109

  
Jennifer M. Mayo  
Acting Clerk of the Commission