

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Roderick Rogers,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2025-0832

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

Respondents

August 26, 2026

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on April 30, 2026, at which time the complainant and 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 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 three letters to the respondents, each dated September 2, 2025 (hereinafter, “the requests”), the complainant requested copies of: (a) all documents and reports related to case #13D-733; (b) all information pertaining to the qualifications to become a interrogator/interviewer within the respondent Police Department and the respondent Police Department’s process/procedure for conducting, documenting and maintaining documentation of such interviews and interrogations; and (c) all records of internal affairs reports/investigations, reprimands, write-ups, substantiated and unsubstantiated claims of misconduct relating to Detectives Hector Teixeira, Paul Ortiz, Harold Dimbo, Ada Cumet, and Sergeant Jason Amato. The complainant also requested a copy of the respondent Police Department’s September 2013 policy on conducting a photo array lineup and a 2013 policy on taking witness statements.
3. By complaint, received and filed on September 17, 2025, the complainant appealed to this Commission, alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information (“FOI”) Act by failing to provide him with the records described in paragraph 2, above.

4. Section 1-206(a), G.S., provides in relevant part:

[a]ny 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....

5. Section 1-206(b)(1), G.S., provides in relevant part: “[a]ny person denied the right to inspect or copy records under 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....”

6. In City of Bridgeport v. Freedom of Info. Comm’n, 222 Conn. App. 17, 53-55 (2023), the Appellate Court held that “[b]ecause an agency can neither deny nor comply with a request it has not received, construing §1-206 (a) as requiring that an agency receive a request before the four day period commences is consistent with the statute’s emphasis on the agency’s response or lack thereof, to a request for public records.” Moreover, with respect to physical mail, the Court noted that “the mailing of a properly addressed letter creates a presumption of timely notice unless contrary evidence is presented.” Id., at 55, citing Daniels v. Statewide Grievance Committee, 72 Conn. App. 203, 211 (2002). Accordingly, “an individual is entitled to presume that a properly addressed request for records sent by mail will be received within a few days after it is mailed, and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the [C]ommission may presume the same.” Id., at 55-56.

7. At the hearing on this matter, the respondents contended that the complaint in this matter should be dismissed because the respondents never received the requests, described in paragraph 2, above, and thus had not denied such requests or denied any right under the FOI Act.

8. At the hearing on this matter, the complainant testified, and it is found, that he has received letters of acknowledgment in response to past FOI requests made to the respondents, but that he did not receive any acknowledgment of any of the requests at issue herein.

9. The Commission notes that it sent letters to the parties on December 10, 2025, informing them of the complaint in this matter. However, because the complainant did not attach copies of the requests when he filed his complaint, the Commission’s letters did not include copies of the complainant’s requests.

10. Consequently, the respondents’ attorney represented that, upon receipt of the Commission’s letters, described in paragraph 9, above, she contacted the Commission and thereafter was able to obtain copies of the complainant’s requests described in paragraph 2, above.¹

¹ Subsequent to the filing of the complaint in this matter, the complainant filed copies of the requests at issue herein.

11. At the hearing on this matter, the respondents appeared with a witness, who is a typist for the respondent Police Department. It is found that the typist oversees the respondents' GovQA portal for processing records requests and handles all FOI requests for the respondent Police Department. The typist testified, and it is found, that the first time the respondents received notice of the complainant's requests, described in paragraph 2, above, was on or after December 10, 2025, when the Commission notified the parties of the complaint in this matter.

12. The respondents' witness testified, and it is found, that the respondents' procedure with regard to its receipt of mailed records requests is that, upon receipt of mail by the respondents' mail department, a sergeant picks up the respondents' mail, sorts it, and delivers all records requests to the typist's mailbox; thereafter the typist date stamps the requests, sends an acknowledgment letter, and responds to the request accordingly.

13. The respondents' witness testified, and it is found, that to confirm the respondents had not received the complainant's requests, the witness searched the respondents' GovQA portal, as well as his mailbox where mailed records requests are maintained. It is found that neither the respondents' GovQA portal nor the typist's mailbox contained the requests described in paragraph 2, above.

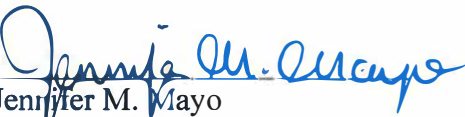
14. The Commission notes that neither party produced the envelope, nor a copy thereof, showing the mailing address to which the requests were sent.

15. Based on all of the foregoing, it is found that, at the time of the complaint, the respondents had not received the requests described in paragraph 2, above, and therefore had not denied the complainant's requests, or denied any right under the FOI Act, within the meaning of §1-206(b)(1), G.S. Because there was no denial at the time of the complaint, it is concluded that the respondents did not violate the FOI Act under the facts of this case.

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

1. The complaint is hereby dismissed.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of August 26, 2026.


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:

RODERICK ROGERS, #394850, Cheshire Correctional Institution, 900 Highland Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410

CHIEF, POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF BRIDGEPORT; POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, 300 Congress Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604;
AND CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, CT 06604



Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission