

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Christopher Crayton,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2025-0661

Commissioner, State of Connecticut,
Department of Emergency Services &
Public Protection; and State of
Connecticut, Department of Emergency
Services & Public Protection,

Respondents

July 22, 2026

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on February 20, 2026, at which time the complainant and the respondents appeared, stipulated to certain facts, and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

Pursuant to the hearing officer's March 18, 2026 order, the respondents submitted to the Commission an Affidavit of Shelley Vincenzo, dated March 25, 2026, and an Affidavit of Trooper Rickey Deprey, dated March 25, 2026. Such affidavits are marked and admitted as Respondents' Exhibits 4 (after-filed) and 5 (after-filed), respectively.¹

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.

¹ Pursuant to §1-205-38 of the Commission's Regulations, the complainant was provided an opportunity to submit a reply statement to any proposed after-filed exhibit. On April 10, 2026, the complainant submitted such a statement objecting to the admission of the Affidavit of Shelley Vincenzo. The affidavit is admitted over the complainant's objection because it is relevant to the factual issues before the Commission.

2. It is found that on April 21, 2025, the complainant, via two separate requests,² sought the following records from the respondents:³

[Request #1]

Any incident reports, officer notes, or supplemental logs related to [a May 28, 2023 police visit to the complainant's residence].

Any available body cam or dash cam footage from the May 28, 2023 visit.

The names or badge numbers of the officers who were present.

[Request #2]

The complete incident report tied to [a] theft [occurring on May 29, 2023].

Any follow-up records, investigation notes, or resolution status.

3. It is found that with respect to Request #1, the respondents, on May 13, 2025: (i) informed the complainant that the requested body camera footage was no longer maintained by the respondents as the retention period for such footage had lapsed⁴; and (ii) answered the complainant's questions as to the names and badge numbers of the officers who were present at the May 28, 2023 visit described in paragraph 2, above. Additionally, the respondents informed the complainant that the requested report would be provided at a later time by their Reports and Records Unit.

4. It is found that on June 13, 2025, the respondents provided the complainant with records responsive to his requests described in paragraph 2, above. With respect to Request #1, the respondents provided the complainant with a partially redacted copy of a Call Summary Report. With respect to Request #2, the respondents provided the complainant with an unredacted investigation report and six screenshots which the complainant had previously provided to the investigating officer.

5. It is found that the redactions made to the Call Summary Report provided to the complainant in response to the complainant's Request #1 were identified as being made pursuant

² The complainant also made a third request to the respondents on June 16, 2025, seeking metadata from police officer body cameras relevant to an occurrence on May 23, 2023. At the February 20, 2026 hearing in this matter, the respondents provided the complainant with a physical copy of the requested metadata, which they previously had provided in electronic format. After receiving the physical copy of the metadata, the complainant indicated that his June 16, 2025 request, i.e., Request #3, was no longer at issue. Accordingly, such request will not be further considered herein.

³ The respondents assigned Requests #1 and #2 the internal tracking numbers #R032547-042125 and #R032548-042125, respectively.

⁴ Because the requested body camera footage was no longer maintained due to the lapse of the applicable retention period, the complainant's focus at the hearing concerned the requested reports and notes described in paragraph 2, above.

to §51-5c, G.S., which pertains to information contained in the registry of protective orders and, among other things, prohibits the disclosure of “[a]ny information that would identify a person protected by an order contained in the registry.”

6. By complaint received and filed on July 28, 2025, the complainant appealed to this Commission alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information (“FOI”) Act by failing to provide all records responsive to his requests described in paragraph 2, above.

7. 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 section 1-218, whether such data or information be handwritten, typed, tape-recorded, videotaped, printed, photostated, photographed or recorded by any other method.

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

[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.

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

10. It is concluded that the records described in paragraph 2, above, 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.

11. The complainant alleges that the respondents improperly redacted portions of the report responsive to Request #1, described in paragraph 2, above. Specifically, the complainant alleges that the respondents failed to conduct a “line-by-line” review of the report to redact only that information that is specifically exempt under §51-5c, G.S.

12. At the February 20, 2026, hearing in this matter, the respondents asserted that the redacted portions of the report responsive to Request #1 were also exempt pursuant to §29-164f, G.S., which governs records contained in the National Crime Information Center (“NCIC”) and the Connecticut On Line Law Enforcement Communications Teleprocessing (“COLLECT”) systems.

13. In Commissioner of Public Safety v. Freedom of Info. Comm’n, 144 Conn. App. 821, 827 (2013), the Appellate Court clarified that “the NCIC database is to be used for the limited

purposes authorized by law, such as background checks, and that NCIC records may only be used for official purposes.” The Court concluded that §29-164f, G.S., provides a statutory exemption to the disclosure provisions of §1-210(a), G.S. Id. at 831. Moreover, this Commission previously has held that the COLLECT system is part of the overall NCIC system and that records obtained through such system are exempt from disclosure as NCIC records. Docket #FIC 2016-0535, Joseph Sastre v. Marc Montminy, Chief, Police Department, Town of Manchester, et al. (April 12, 2017).

14. Specifically, the complainant takes issue with a large redaction to the Call Summary Report provided in response to Request #1, which withheld nearly an entire page of information.

15. The respondents testified, and it is found, that the redaction described in paragraph 14, above, withheld only information obtained through the NCIC/COLLECT systems. Specifically, it is found that the redacted information described in paragraph 14, above, consisted of a read-out of a protective order from the NCIC/COLLECT system.

16. It is found that the respondents’ employee who reviewed the redacted information described in paragraph 14, above, had the federally required certifications necessary to access information from the NCIC/COLLECT systems and was able to identify information from such systems.

17. The respondents further testified, and it is found, that no portion of the redacted information described in paragraph 14, above, contained any notes sought by the complainant in Request #1.

18. It is found that the respondents also made two other redactions to the records provided to the complainant in response to Request #1, both of which withheld the name of a person who is the subject of a protective order pursuant to §51-5c, G.S.

19. It is found, therefore, that the redactions made to the records provided to the complainant in response to Request #1 were proper pursuant to §29-164f, G.S., or §51-5c, G.S., as applicable.

20. Next, the complainant alleges that the respondents failed to provide him with all responsive records with respect to Request #1 and Request #2.

21. With respect to Request #1, it is found that the respondents searched their electronic records management system, NexGen, and located the requested report, a redacted copy of which was provided to the complainant as described in paragraphs 4 and 5, above. It is found that the respondents also confirmed with the officers who conducted the visit described in Request #1 that no additional records existed. It is found that one officer maintained his notes in NexGen and the other maintained his notes in a field notebook. It is found that, upon searching those locations, neither officer located any additional responsive records.

22. With respect to Request #2, it is found that the officer who investigated the complainant’s theft allegations searched NexGen, his electronic file related to the investigation, and his field notebook. It is found that no additional records were discovered as a result of such search.

23. The complainant alleges that the respondents' search was inadequate because they did not search email accounts. It is found, however, that neither Request #1 nor Request #2 is reasonably understood as a request for email correspondence. Similarly, to the extent the complainant alleges that the respondents should have provided "documentation demonstrating: whether records were preserved[,], whether retention policies were applied[, and] whether any destruction logs exist. . .," it is found that such records are not fairly encompassed by either request described in paragraph 2, above.

24. Based on the specific facts and circumstances of this case, it is found that the respondents conducted a reasonably diligent and thorough search and provided the complainant with copies of all nonexempt responsive records they maintained at the time of his requests.

25. It is concluded, therefore, that the respondents did not violate the disclosure provisions of §§1-210(a) or 1-212(a), G.S., as alleged by the complainant.

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 July 22, 2026.

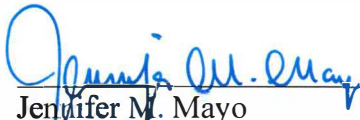

Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

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:

CHRISTOPHER CRAYTON, 29 Jonathan Lane, Storrs-Mansfield, CT 06268

COMMISSIONER, STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION; AND STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION, c/o Attorney Jennifer F. Miller, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, 111 Country Club Road, Middletown, CT 06457


Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission