

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Elijah El-Hajj-Bey,

Complainant

against

Docket # FIC 2025-0372

Chief Executive Officer, The Metropolitan
District; and The Metropolitan District,

Respondents

May 13, 2026

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on October 31, 2025, at which time the complainant and the respondents appeared, stipulated to certain facts and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

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 text message dated May 1, 2025, the complainant requested that the respondents provide a copy of a police report regarding an alleged January 16, 2025 incident involving the complainant.
3. It is found that, by text message dated May 1, 2025, the respondents acknowledged the complainant's request and instructed the complainant to submit his request via email addressed to the chief of police of the Metropolitan District Police.
4. It is found that, by text message dated May 6, 2025, the complainant confirmed that he emailed the request, described in paragraph 2, above, but noted that he had not received a response to such request.
5. It is found that, by email dated May 9, 2025, the complainant again requested the police report as well as "any written communication (email, notes or letters) that may have lead [sic] to [the] investigation."
6. By complaint received and filed May 20, 2025, the complainant appealed to the Commission, alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information ("FOI") Act by denying his request for the records described in paragraphs 2 and 5, above.

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

"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, 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:

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 the provisions of 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 requested records described in paragraphs 2 and 5, above, to the extent that 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. It is found that, by email dated May 20, 2025, the respondents attempted to send a copy of the requested police report, described in paragraph 2, above. However, it is also found that the respondents, in sending the requested police report, entered the complainant's email incorrectly (eelhajibey@gm.com instead of eelhajibey@gmail.com). It is found, therefore, that the complainant did not receive the respondents' email.

12. It is found that between May 21, 2025, and September 11, 2025, the complainant and the respondents did not have further correspondence, and therefore, the respondents were not aware that the complainant had not received their email of May 20, 2025, nor the police report, described in paragraph 11, above.

13. It is found that in early September 2025, the respondents realized that they had overlooked the complainant's May 9 request for correspondence, described in paragraph 5, above.

14. It is found that, by email dated September 11, 2025, the respondents provided the complainant with copies of the requested police report, described in paragraph 2, above, as well as email correspondence, responsive to the request described in paragraph 5, above, to the correct email address, which the complainant received.

15. At the hearing on this matter, the respondents contended that they had provided the complainant with copies of all responsive records that existed and that they maintained. The complainant disputed the respondents' contention.

16. At the hearing on this matter, the complainant testified that he believed there were additional communications between the respondents and the OAG that led to an investigation pertaining to him, and that such records are responsive to the request described in paragraph 5, above.

17. The respondents' witness, the police chief, testified, and it is found, that the respondents investigated the complainant, following a message the complainant had sent on LinkedIn. It is found that such message was routed to the respondents' LinkedIn inbox, and subsequently forwarded to the respondents' legal counsel and other members of the Metropolitan District, and to the respondent police chief.

18. It is found that a copy of the LinkedIn message, described in paragraph 17, above, was provided to the complainant, as part of the responsive records provided to him on September 11, 2025, as described in paragraph 14, above.

19. The police chief testified, and it is found, that he personally searched for responsive emails and text messages and directed the officer involved with the investigation to do the same. The police chief testified, and it is found, that the only responsive records located were those provided to the complainant on September 11, 2025, as described in paragraph 14, above. The police chief further testified, and it is found, that there were no further communications regarding the commencement of the investigation, and no further investigation after the interview with the complainant.

20. It is found, based on the credible testimony of the police chief, that the respondents conducted a diligent and thorough search for the records described in paragraphs 2 and 5, above, and provided the complainant with a copy of all responsive records that they maintained.

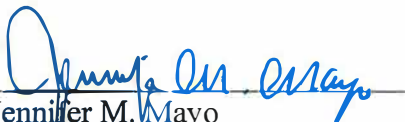
21. Based on all of the foregoing, it is concluded that the respondents did not violate the FOI Act as alleged in the complaint.¹

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.

¹ During the complainant's closing argument at the hearing on this matter, he requested that the Commission consider the imposition of a civil penalty against the respondents. Based on the findings of paragraph 20, above, and recommended dismissal, consideration of the imposition of a civil penalty is not warranted.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of May 13, 2026.

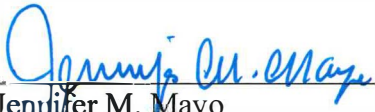

Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

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:

ELIJAH EL-HAJJ-BEY, 20 Kenneth Circle, Windsor, CT 06095

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT; AND THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT, c/o Attorney John S. Mirtle, The Metropolitan District, 555 Main Street, PO Box 800, Hartford, CT 06142


Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission