

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Ronnie Hinton,

Complainant

against

Docket # FIC 2025-0439

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

Respondents

May 27, 2026

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on March 3, 2026, at which time 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 et al.*, 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 request dated April 15, 2025, the complainant requested copies of the following records from the respondents, among other records no longer at issue:

[a] A copy of the warrant to seize his cell phone on November 12, 2024.

[b] Video recordings from the Hartford Parole Office on November 12, 2024.

[c] The name of the person who attempted to put a GPS monitoring bracelet on the complainant on November 12, 2024.

3. It is found that, by letter dated May 23, 2025, the respondents responded to the complainant's April 15, 2025 request, providing copies of certain records no longer at issue, and informed the complainant that:

[a] The warrant is not maintained by the respondents, and that the complainant should request it directly from the police department;

[b] The video recordings were not preserved; and

[c] They are not required to create records to answer questions.

4. By complaint filed May 29, 2025, the complainant appealed to the Commission, alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information (“FOI”) Act by failing to provide copies of the requested records described in paragraph 2, above.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.”

8. It is concluded that the records described in paragraph 2, above, to the extent such records 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 contested case hearing on this matter, the complainant contended that the respondents failed to provide him with copies of the records described in paragraph 2, above. The respondents contended that they had provided copies of all responsive records that they maintained.

10. With respect to the request for a copy of the search warrant for the complainant’s phone, described in paragraph 2[a], above, the respondents testified, and it is found, that they searched their records but that they did not locate and do not maintain a copy of such warrant. The respondents also testified, and it is found, that they checked with the parole and community supervision office, which also did not maintain a copy of the search warrant responsive to the complainant’s request.

11. The respondents also testified, and it is found, that the search warrant was obtained by the Norwich Police Department (“NPD”), and would likely be maintained by NPD or the court, rather than the respondents.

12. Based on the foregoing, it is found that the respondents do not maintain any records responsive to the complainant’s request described in paragraph 2[a], above.

13. With respect to the request for a copy of the video recordings, described in paragraph 2[b], above, the respondents testified, and it is found, that such video is preserved for 30 days absent a preservation request or incident report. The respondents testified, and it is found, that neither a preservation request nor an incident report was made that would have triggered the automatic retention of the requested November 12, 2024 video recordings.

14. It is found that the complainant made his request for a copy of the November 12, 2024 video recordings on April 15, 2025—approximately 154 days after the incident—well outside of the 30-day retention window.

15. The respondents testified, and it is found, that they inquired with the department responsible for retention of video recordings, and the department confirmed that the video recordings from November 12, 2024 had been deleted.¹

16. It is found that, at the time of the April 15, 2025 request, the respondents did not maintain any records responsive to the complainant’s request, described in paragraph 2[b], above.

17. With respect to the request described in paragraph 2[c], above, the complainant requested that the respondents provide him with the name of the probation officer who attempted to place a GPS bracelet on his ankle on November 12, 2024.

18. The Commission notes that the FOI Act does not require a public agency to answer questions; instead a public agency is required to provide access to, and copies of, public records. See Kimberly Albright-Lazzari et al. v. Colleen Murphy, Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission et al., CV105014984S, 2011 WL 1886878, at *3 (Conn. Super. Ct. April 21, 2011).

19. While the respondents were not required to answer the question described in paragraph 2[c], above, the respondents testified, and it is found, that they did make a good faith effort to find a copy of a record that contained the requested name. Specifically, the respondents testified, and it is found, that they conducted a search for but did not locate a duty roster for the date in question, case notes or other records that would provide the complainant with the name of the person the complainant requested.

20. It is found, however, that the respondents provided the complainant with a copy of the case notes that indicated the name of a probation officer that had placed a GPS bracelet on the complainant on a date subsequent to November 12, 2024.

¹ It is well settled that this Commission does not have jurisdiction over matters relating to the retention and destruction of public records. That authority rests with the Public Records Administrator. See Jon Shoenhorn v. Comm’r, State of Conn., Dep’t of Emergency Serv. & Pub. Prot. Et al., Docket #FIC 2022-0598 (Oct. 11, 2023).

21. The respondents testified, and it is found, that the record described in paragraph 20, above, was the only record they located as it relates to placement of a GPS bracelet on the complainant.

22. Based on the foregoing, it is found that the respondents conducted a reasonable and diligent search, and provided the complainant with a copy of all the records that they maintained that are responsive to the complainant's request described in paragraph 2, above.

23. It is therefore concluded that the respondents did not violate §§1-210(a) and 1-212(a), G.S., as alleged in the complaint.

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 May 27, 2026.

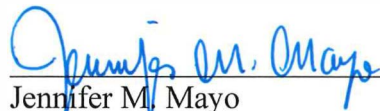

Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

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:

RONNIE HINTON, #171513, Corrigan Correctional Center, 986 Norwich-New London Turnpike, Uncasville, CT 06382

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