

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by
Jeanne D. Miner

FINAL DECISION

Complainant

Docket #FIC 85-2

against

July 24, 1985

State of Connecticut
Department of Motor Vehicles

Respondent

The above captioned matter was heard as a contested case on May 10, 1985 at which time the complainant and the respondent appeared and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record the following facts are found:

1. The respondent is a public agency within the meaning of §1-18a(a), G.S.

2. By letter filed with the Commission on January 3, 1985, the complainant alleged that the respondent denied her request for the name and address of the person who filed a complaint with the respondent concerning the operating condition of the complainant's automobile.

3. It is found that on September 26, 1984 the respondent received a letter in which a person complained about the automobile belonging to the complainant.

4. On November 16, 1984 the complainant requested in writing that the respondent provide the name and address of the person who complained about the operation of her car.

5. By letter dated December 5, 1984, the respondent denied the complainant's request on the basis that "it is and always has been the policy of this Agency to deny any request for complainants names."

6. The respondent claimed that the names and addresses of persons filing complaints with it are exempt from public disclosure pursuant to §1-19(b)(3)(A), G.S.

7. §1-19(b)(3)(A), G.S., provides an exemption for:

" . . . records of law enforcement agencies not otherwise available to the public which records were compiled in connection with the detection or investigation of crime, if the disclosure of said records would not be in the public interest because it would result in the disclosure of . . . the identity of informants not otherwise known. . ."

8. It is found that the respondent is a law enforcement agency within the meaning of §1-19(b)(3), G.S., pursuant to the provisions of §§14-8 and 54-142g(b), G.S.

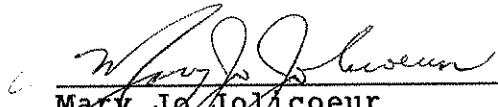
9. The record requested in this case concerned a complaint of an alleged violation of §14-80, G.S., which contains provisions concerning the proper equipment on motor vehicles. A violation of §14-80, G.S., is an infraction of the law.

10. It is concluded that the name of the person complaining to the respondent may be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to §1-19(b)(3)(A), G.S., because the name of the informant is not otherwise known, and it was compiled by the respondent in the investigation of an alleged crime.

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 24, 1985.



Mary Jo Jolicoeur
Clerk of the Commission