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November 21, 2018

Dan D'Ambrosio
Burlington Free Press
100 Bank Street
Suite 7
Burlington, VT 05401

VIA EMAIL AND REGULAR MAIL---- ddambrosi@gannett.com

Re: Public Records Request to Civil Rights Unit

Dear Mr. D'Ambrosio:

I am writing in response to your November 19 2018 Public Records Request to the Civil Rights Unit (CRU) of the Vermont Attorney General's Office (CRU) in which you requested a copy of a complaint "filed" with the CRU in February 2017.

Your request is governed by Vermont's Public Records Act (PRA), 1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320. The PRA exempts from public disclosure: (1) "records which by law are designated confidential or by a similar term" and (2) "records which by law may only be disclosed to specifically designated persons." 1 V.S.A. § 317(c) (1)-(2).

Under state law, materials and information obtained during the Attorney General's investigation of alleged civil rights violations are confidential and may not be produced absent (1) a court order or (2) consent of the party providing the information. *See* 21 V.S.A. §§ 495b(a) and 9 V.S.A. § 2460(a)(4). Because neither exception applies here, we cannot produce any records in response to your request. *See id.*; 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(1)-(2).

You may appeal this decision with Deputy Attorney General Joshua Diamond in this office.

Sincerely,

/s/ Emily Adams

Emily Chamberlain Adams
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Unit