

From: [Stratton, Sophie](#)
To: lconnors@vpr.org
Subject: Hartford Officer-Involved Shooting AGO Public Records Request
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:03:48 AM
Attachments: [AGO PRR Hartford OIS Cost Estimate 12-7-2021.pdf](#)

Good morning Mr. Elder-Connors,
Please see the attached letter with a cost estimate for your public records request.

Take care,

Sophie Stratton

Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General | Criminal Division
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802.828.5512

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THOMAS J. DONOVAN, JR.
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JOSHUA R. DIAMOND
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

SARAH E.B. LONDON
CHIEF ASST. ATTORNEY GENERAL



TEL: (802) 828-3171

<http://www.ago.vermont.gov>

STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT
05609-1001

December 7, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Liam Elder-Connors
365 Troy Avenue
Colchester, VT 05446
802-503-8071
lconnors@vpr.org

Re: November 16, 2021, Public Records Request: Hartford Officer-Involved Shooting

Dear Mr. Elder-Connors:

I am writing in connection with your public records act request dated November 16, 2021, requesting information about the officer-involved shooting that took place on August 5, 2021, involving Hartford Police Department Corporal Eric Clifford.

A general overview of the records the AGO has in its possession are as follows:

- 911 recording
- Radio traffic recording
- Audio and video recorded interviews of witnesses
- Exhibits from interviews
- Crime Scene Search Team reports
- Approximately 585 photographs
- Sworn statement forms
- VSP trooper reports
- Assisting law enforcement officer reports from Windsor PD, Lebanon PD
- Body-worn camera footage from Hartford PD, VSP, and other assisting agencies
- Gas station surveillance footage of Joseph Howard prior to the shooting
- UAV video of the crime scene
- Search consent forms
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner report

Please note that portions of the above records, as well as other responsive records in our possession, are presently exempt from disclosure under the following statutory exceptions:

1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(3) - Records which, if made public pursuant to the PRA, would cause the custodian to violate duly adopted standards of ethics or conduct for any profession regulated by the State. Please see Rules 1.1 (Competence), 1.6 (Confidentiality of Information), and 3.8 (Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor) of the Vermont Rules of Professional Conduct.

1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(5)(A)(iii) - Records dealing with the detection and investigation of crime that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(5)(D) - Records dealing with the detection and investigation of crime that could reveal information that could be used to facilitate the commission of a crime or the identity of a private individual who is a witness to or victim of a crime.

Turning first to the portion of potentially responsive records that are documentary records, please be advised that because the materials covered by your request contain records that require review and redaction, we will require payment to cover the cost associated with this time, which we have calculated as follows:

1. Attorney review of records: 300 minutes @ .57/minute (\$171.00)
2. Attorney time for redactions of records: 960 minutes @ .57/minute (\$547.20)
3. Staff time for redaction of records: 0 minutes @ .33/minute (\$0)

Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 316(c), the first 30 minutes of staff time are exempt from billing. Therefore, the total amount payable to process your request for *documentary records only* is \$718.20. Should you wish to proceed with this portion of your request, please send a check in that amount to our office at my attention made payable to the State of Vermont. As soon as this payment is received, we will finish processing your request.

In addition to documentary records, records responsive to your request also include electronic photographs, audio recordings, and video. It will take additional time to estimate costs for redaction of these records, or to redact them in advance of inspection as we do not have that capability within the Attorney General's Office.

Please be advised that to the extent this letter constitutes a denial of your request, you may appeal to the Deputy Attorney General. Any appeal should be in writing and addressed to:

Joshua Diamond
Deputy Attorney General
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001

Sincerely,

/s/ Sophie Stratton

Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

THOMAS J. DONOVAN, JR.
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JOSHUA R. DIAMOND
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

SARAH E.B. LONDON
CHIEF ASST. ATTORNEY GENERAL



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**STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT
05609-1001**

Notice of Protocol for Inspection of Public Records

Welcome to the Attorney General's Office (AGO). If you have any questions or need assistance, please visit the AGO's Front Desk on the third floor and someone can assist you.

Please be aware that no copying of inspected records shall be permitted without applicable charges. Any requester who elects to inspect public records shall not make electronic copies or photocopies of the inspected records. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, the use of scanning devices, thumb drives, cameras, or cell phones during inspection.

Copies can be made available upon request and payment made consistent with 1 V.S.A. §§ 316(b) & (c) and the Secretary of State's Uniform Fee Schedule, available at <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/archives-records/certifications-fees/uniform-fee-schedule.aspx>. The AGO can also provide a cost estimate prior to copying.

This Notice shall be provided to each inspector of public records.

I have received a copy of the Protocol for Inspection of Public Records.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

From: [Stratton, Sophie](#)
To: lconnors@vpr.org
Subject: Public Records Request Online Payment
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 1:34:36 PM

Good afternoon Mr. Elder-Connors,
I apologize, I should have included information on how to make payments for public records requests online in my letter earlier today. We accept payments on our website at:
<https://appengine.egov.com/apps/vt/ago/onlinepayment>.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sophie Stratton

Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General | Criminal Division
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802.828.5512

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