

**From:** [Bakuli, Ethan](#)  
**To:** [AGO - Info](#)  
**Subject:** Burlington Free Press records request about Bias Incident Reporting System  
**Date:** Friday, August 28, 2020 9:47:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hello,

Under the **Vermont Public Records Law, §315 et seq.**, I am requesting an opportunity to inspect records of **bias complaints opened for investigation through the Attorney General Office's "Bias Incident Reporting System" dating back to January 2019.**

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$100. However, I would like to request a waiver of all fees due to the disclosure of the requested information, in cases where it is not redacted for confidential information, is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of how the attorney general's protocols for handling bias incidents has or has not filled in the gaps in the system. While traditionally, complaints about hate crime or bias would be filed through local police departments, the new system or protocols was intended to direct those complaints through the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, before arriving at the Human Rights Commission and the Attorney General's Office. Improved transparency over the protocols in place to file and open bias complaints would expand the public's understanding of the process and might otherwise encourage residents who may shy away from submitting formal/informal complaints to state agencies.

The law requires a response to this request within 2 days, or within 10 days for extraordinary circumstances. If you expect a significant delay in fulfilling this request, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

If you deny any or all of this request, please inform as to what reasons and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law.

Thanks,

Ethan Bakuli  
Reporter

**Burlington Free Press**

Mobile: (802) 556-1804

Office: (802) 660-1864

[ebakuli@freepressmedia.com](mailto:ebakuli@freepressmedia.com)