



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

Department of Law

William Peduto, Mayor

Celia B. Liss, Open Records Officer

June 22, 2017

Sarah Ryley
The Trace Media
112 Berkeley Place, #3R
Brooklyn, NY 11217
sarahryleyfoi@gmail.com
By Email

RE: RTK No. 71-02-2017

Dear Ms. Ryley:

On May 16, 2017, the City of Pittsburgh Open Records Office received your written request for records pursuant to the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law (RTKL), 65 P.S. §67.101 *et seq.* Your specific request is as follows:

"Under the Pennsylvania Right to Know Act, I am requesting data, in .csv, .xls, or .xlsx format, pertaining to homicides and non-fatal shootings that have been handled by the Pittsburgh Police Department from Jan. 1, 2005 through the date in which this request is filled.

This data should include all fields disclosable under the law, including but not limited to:

- *A unique identifier for the incident (i.e. incident ID)*
- *Date of the incident*
- *Name(s) of the victim(s)*
- *Date of Birth of the victim(s)*
- *Race of the victim(s)*
- *Ethnicity of the victim(s) (i.e. Hispanic or Non-Hispanic)*
- *Gender of the victim(s)*
- *Address or location of the incident*
- *Weapon used*
- *Any other data pertaining to the circumstances surrounding the incident (i.e., motive, whether it was suspected gang or drug-related)*
- *Status of the investigation (i.e., whether a suspect has been identified and an arrest made)*
- *Date of arrest*
- *Name(s) of suspect(s)*
- *Date of Birth of the suspect(s)*
- *Race of the suspect(s)*
- *Ethnicity of the suspect(s) (i.e. Hispanic or Non-Hispanic)*

- *Gender of the suspect(s)*
- *Responding officer*
- *Detective assigned*
- *Days investigation was active (i.e. Not a cold case)*
- *Number of responding officers*
- *Number of detectives assigned to the case*
- *I am also requesting any data dictionaries, glossary of terms, record layouts, etc. pertaining to the above database(s), that describe the database and define the fields and codes used in the database."*

Upon investigation, the City's Open Records Office was able to locate the spreadsheets attached hereto, the data you requested as well as the data dictionary. Not included are date of birth of victims, which is exempted under RTKL as personal identification information, see 65 P.S. §67.708 (b)(6), although we have included the age of individuals over 18, or the names of victims, which are exempted under RTKL as likely to threaten the personal security of an individual, see 65 P.S. §67.708 (b)(1)(ii). We have exempted all data that is investigative in nature, again, such as the victim's name as well as detective assigned, days the investigation was active, specific data as to weapon, motive. See 65 P.S. §67.708(b)(16).

We have not included the names of juveniles, as this information is exempt under RTKL, see 65 P.S. §67.708(b)(30), nor have we included ethnicity of suspects or the number of responding officers, as the City does not collect this data.

No other responsive records exist. To the extent anything requested does not exist, the RTKL instructs that the City is not required to create records which do not currently exist. See 65 P.S. §67.705. Additionally, nothing in the RTKL shall be construed to modify, rescind or supersede any of the City's record retention policies. See 65 P.S. §67.507.

If you feel that any aspect of this response to your request is in error with respect to criminal investigative data, you may take an appeal by writing to the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, 436 Grant St., Suite 303, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. See 65 P.S. §§67.503(d)(2) and 67.1101(a)(1)(2). In order to take an appeal you must do so within fifteen business days of the date of this letter. See 65 P.S. §67.1101(a)(1)(2).

If you feel that any aspect of this response to your request is in error with respect to data omitted under the RTKL exemptions for minors information, or personal information such as dates of birth, you may take an appeal by writing to Erik Arneson, Executive Director, Office of Open Records, Commonwealth Keystone Building, 400 North Street, 4th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17120. If you wish to take an appeal, you must do so within fifteen (15) business days of the date of this letter. See 65 P.S. §67.1101.

Sincerely,



Celia B. Liss
Open Records Officer