



City of Charleston

South Carolina

JOSEPH P. RILEY, Jr
Mayor

GREGORY MULLEN
Chief of Police

POLICE DEPARTMENT

January 14, 2016



Re: FOIA/ Joyful Heart Foundation/ Tracking Number 7375

Dear Ms [REDACTED],

After reviewing your request for information pertaining to the above captioned, I am submitting to you copies of the following documents:

1. 145 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits have been received
2. 108 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits have been processed
3. 35 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits have been unprocessed
4. Investigators make the request for the Evidence Collection Kits to be taken, then the kit is documented in the SLED system.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the email address of [REDACTED]@charleston-sc.gov.

Very Respectfully,

Aimee N. Beck
Legal Assistant





[REDACTED]@joyfulheartfoundation.org>

FW: City of Charleston Police Department FOIA Response

Thu, Mar 3, 2016 at 2:03 PM

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]@joyfulheartfoundation.org>

[REDACTED]

I received a response from the city of Charleston confirming that they numbers that they previously sent were in fact for 10 years. I will follow up and ask them to please break down the data year by year if possible but wanted to give you an update as to where we stand with Charleston at the moment.

Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]@joyfulheartfoundation.org>

Joyful Heart FOIA Response - City of Charleston

8 messages

Fri, May 13, 2016 at 12:48 PM

To: [REDACTED]@joyfulheartfoundation.org>

[REDACTED]

In response to our follow-up request regarding the year by year breakdown of the data, the city of Charleston has provided the breakdown below. This is the breakdown of the total number of kits received. I've attached their original response here as well for your reference. Please let me know if you have any further follow-up questions.

Best,

[REDACTED]

From: Beck, Aimee [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2016 11:46 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: City of Charleston Police Department FOIA Response

Good Morning Ms. [REDACTED]

Sorry for the delay. Below please find the break down of the data by year.

2006 – 17 kits

2007 – 10 kits

2008 – 8 kits

2009 – 8 kits

2010 – 13 kits

2011 – 9 kits

2012 – 9 kits

2013 – 16 kits

2014 – 36 kits

2015 – 19 kits

Please let me know if you should need anything else.

Aimee N. Beck | Paralegal

City of Charleston | Legal Department

50 Broad Street | Charleston, SC 29401



www.charleston-sc.gov





[redacted]@joyfulheartfoundation.org>

Fwd: FW: follow up to Joyful Heart FOIA request

[redacted]@joyfulheartfoundation.org>
[redacted]@joyfulheartfoundation.org>

Thu, Oct 27, 2016 at 2:51 PM

[redacted]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [redacted]
Date: Thu, Oct 27, 2016 at 2:35 PM
Subject: FW: follow up to Joyful Heart FOIA request
To: [redacted]@joyfulheartfoundation.org>
Cc: [redacted]

See the below explanation from Charleston. Someone also called me today to ask for a mailing address to send information. I'm not sure if it will be a duplicate of the response below or something else, but I will scan it and send it to you when it arrives.

Best,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Ruemelin, Steve [mailto:[redacted]]
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2016 1:21 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Nappo, Karen; Failey, Danielle
Subject: FW: follow up to Joyful Heart FOIA request

Mr. [redacted] and Ms. [redacted],

The City of Charleston Police Department currently has a total of 88 sexual assault kits stored in evidence. The kits fall into the following categories:

Unfounded- there are 74 kits in evidence that are linked to unfounded cases. Unfounded cases are cases that have been investigated and found to be false or baseless. A false report is a reported crime that an investigation proves never occurred. A baseless report is one in which it is determined that the incident does not meet the elements of criminal sexual conduct. Unfounded kits are not submitted for testing.

Throughout the years the department has kept all kits regardless of whether or not a case was unfounded. More recently, however, the department has engaged a multi-disciplinary work group to review unfounded cases with associated kits. The work group reviews each case to determine whether or not the initial classification of a case as unfounded is warranted. In cases where the work group confirms the initial determination the group recommends that the kit be destroyed.

Kits without reports- there are 12 kits in evidence that are missing reports. 11 of these kits were obtained between 1989 and 1993 the 12th was obtained in in 2002. The department is in the process of locating the reports associated with these kits.

Kits stored for other agencies-the department is storing two kits for other agencies. One kit obtained in October of 2010 is being stored for the College of Charleston, the other obtained in April of 2015 is being stored for the Medical University of South Carolina.

All kits linked to pending active cases have been submitted. As of today's date, the department does not have any backlog of untested kits.

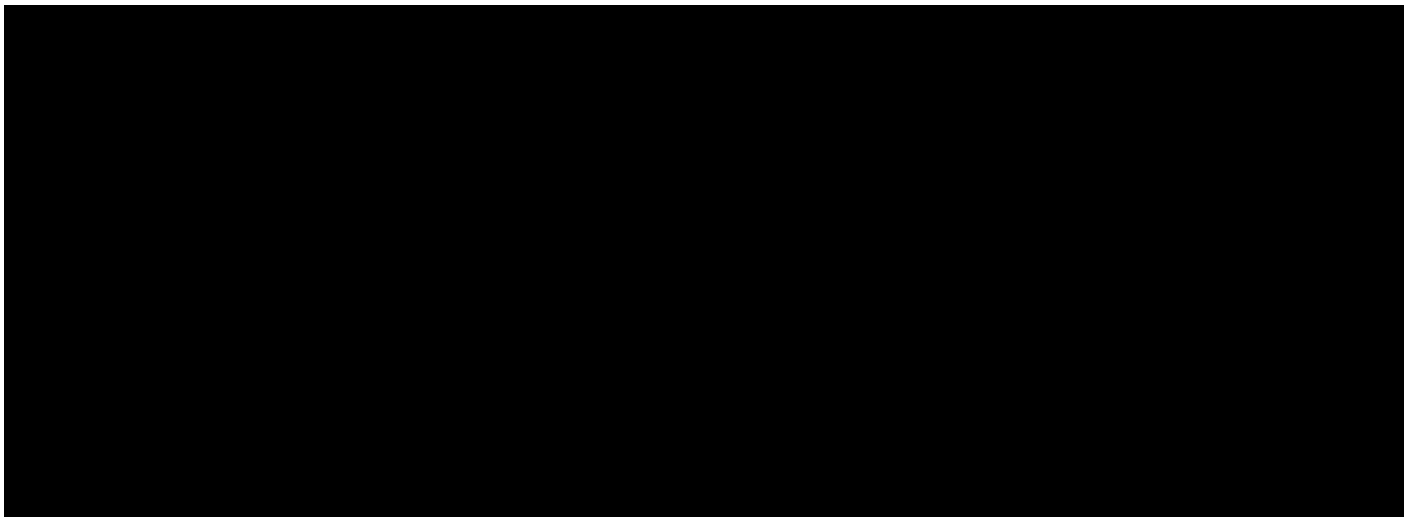
Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Steve Ruemelin | Assistant Corporation Counsel

City of Charleston | Legal Department

180 Lockwood Boulevard | Charleston, SC 29403

 www.charleston-sc.gov





[Redacted]@joyfulheartfoundation.org>

Update - SLED (SC)

8 messages

Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 4:16 PM

[Redacted]@joyfulheartfoundation.org>,
[Redacted]@joyfulheartfoundation.org>

Hi [Redacted] and [Redacted],

I spoke with an officer from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division ("SLED") earlier today. SLED doesn't keep data on the number of *kits* they've tested, rather they only keep track of *cases*. So it's possible that one case could have multiple kits associated with it for one reason or another. He can easily get us data for the number of cases, but the number of tested kits is not readily available at this time.

The officer is trying to find out if they keep track of the number of *untested* kits or cases. He is not sure that they keep data on that, and short of someone actually going out and counting the untested kits, he's not sure if they will be able to get the number. I have asked that they provide us with any data that is readily available for now, but would you like me to press SLED to see if they could undertake a count to determine the number of tested and untested kits?

They are also checking to see if they are able to tell us which jurisdictions in the state send their evidence to the SLED lab. It is discretionary and many jurisdictions use their lab, but some process their own evidence.

Please let me know how you would like us to proceed and whether you would like me to press for an actual count.

Best,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

From: Berry, Thom
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2016 9:07 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FOIA Request No: 2015-0898

Good Morning.

Attached is a listing of the criminal sexual conduct cases we currently have open in our forensic laboratory. The term open is used to designate a case that is currently in process of testing and evaluation.

We do not track nor have any document or information on the number of kits currently at local law enforcement agencies around the state.

SLED's forensic laboratory is available to all law enforcement agencies in our state. We have no information whether a local law enforcement agency in the state uses any other laboratory for forensic testing.

Special Agent Thom W. Berry

SLED FOI Coordinator/PIO

[REDACTED]



SLED Forensics Lab

Open CSC Cases

Abbeville County

Abbeville County Sheriff's Office: 3

Abbeville Police Department: 1

Total for Abbeville County: 4

Aiken County

Aiken County Sheriff's Office: 12

Aiken Department of Public Safety: 9

North Augusta Department of Public Safety: 1

Total for Aiken County: 22

Allendale County

Allendale Police Department: 1

Fairfax Police Department: 2

Total for Allendale County: 3

Anderson County

Anderson County Sheriff's Office: 1

Anderson Police Department: 1

Total for Anderson County: 2

Bamberg County

Bamberg County Sheriff's Department: 4

Bamberg Police Department: 1

Total for Bamberg County: 5

Barnwell County

Barnwell City Police Department: 1

Barnwell County Sheriff's Office: 2

Total for Barnwell County: 3

Beaufort County

Beaufort Police Department: 3

Bluffton Police Department: 3

Total for Beaufort County: 6

Berkeley County



SLED Forensics Lab

Open CSC Cases

Berkeley County

Berkeley County Sheriff's Office: 47

Bonneau Police Department: 1

Goose Creek Police Department: 4

Hanahan Police Department: 4

Summerville Police Department: 1

Total for Berkeley County: 57

Calhoun County

Calhoun County Sheriff's Office: 1

Total for Calhoun County: 1

Charleston County

Charleston City Police Department: 51

Charleston County Sheriff's Office: 15

Folly Beach DPS: 2

Mt. Pleasant Police Department: 7

MUSC Department of Public Safety: 1

North Charleston Police Department: 64

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division: 2

Total for Charleston County: 142

Cherokee County

Cherokee County Sheriff's Office: 7

Gaffney Police Department: 5

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division: 1

Total for Cherokee County: 13

Chester County

Chester County Sheriff's Office: 4

Chester Police Dept: 1

Total for Chester County: 5

Chesterfield County

Cheraw Police Department: 4

Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office: 2

Total for Chesterfield County: 6



SLED Forensics Lab

Open CSC Cases

Clarendon County

Clarendon County Sheriff's Office: 4

S.C. Department of Corrections: 1

Total for Clarendon County: 5

Colleton County

Colleton County Sheriff's Office: 4

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division: 1

Walterboro Police Department: 5

Total for Colleton County: 10

Darlington County

Darlington County Sheriff's Office: 10

Lamar Police Department: 1

Total for Darlington County: 11

Dillon County

Dillon Police Department: 1

Total for Dillon County: 1

Dorchester County

Dorchester County Sheriff's Office: 10

Harleyville Police Department: 1

Lieber Correctional Institution: 1

North Charleston Police Department: 1

Summerville Police Department: 7

Total for Dorchester County: 20

Edgefield County

Edgefield County Sheriff's Office: 2

Johnston Police Department: 1

Total for Edgefield County: 3

Fairfield County

Fairfield County Sheriff's Office: 1

Total for Fairfield County: 1



SLED Forensics Lab

Open CSC Cases

Florence County

Florence County Sheriff's Office: 13

Florence Police Department: 8

Total for Florence County: 21

Georgetown County

Georgetown County Sheriff's Office: 5

Total for Georgetown County: 5

Greenville County

Fountain Inn Police Department: 2

Greenville County Sheriff's Office: 1

Mauldin Police Department: 1

S.C. Department of Corrections: 1

Simpsonville Police Department: 1

Travelers Rest Police Department: 1

Total for Greenville County: 7

Greenwood County

Greenwood County Sheriff's Office: 5

Greenwood Police Department: 10

Ware Shoals Police Department: 2

Total for Greenwood County: 17

Hampton County

Hampton County Sheriff's Office: 2

Hampton Police Department: 2

Total for Hampton County: 4

Horry County

Atlantic Beach Police Department: 1

Coastal Carolina Department of Public Safety: 1

Conway Police Department: 7

Horry County Police Department: 37

Myrtle Beach Police Department: 29

North Myrtle Beach Department of Public Safety: 3

Surfside Beach Police Department: 1

Total for Horry County: 79



SLED Forensics Lab

Open CSC Cases

Jasper County

Hardeeville Police Department: 7

Jasper County Sheriff's Office: 3

Total for Jasper County: 10

Kershaw County

Camden Police Department: 1

Kershaw County Sheriff's Department: 10

Total for Kershaw County: 11

Lancaster County

Lancaster County Sheriff's Office: 16

Lancaster Police Department: 2

Total for Lancaster County: 18

Laurens County

Clinton Public Safety: 1

Laurens County Sheriff's Office: 8

Laurens Police Department: 3

Total for Laurens County: 12

Lee County

Bishopville Police Department: 3

Lee County Sheriff's Department: 1

West Columbia Police Department: 1

Total for Lee County: 5

Lexington County

Batesburg-Leesville Police Department: 1

Cayce Department of Public Safety: 4

Irmo Police Department: 1

Lexington County Sheriff's Department: 18

Lexington Police Department: 3

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division: 1

Springdale Police Department: 1

West Columbia Police Department: 9

Total for Lexington County: 38



SLED Forensics Lab

Open CSC Cases

Marion County

Marion County Sheriffs Office: 8

Marion Police Department: 5

Mullins Police Department: 1

Total for Marion County: 14

Marlboro County

Bennettsville Police Department: 1

Evans Correctional Institution: 1

Federal Correctional Institution - Bennettsville: 1

Marlboro County Sheriff's Department: 1

Total for Marlboro County: 4

McCormick County

McCormick Correctional Institution: 1

McCormick Police Department: 1

S.C. Department of Corrections: 1

Total for McCormick County: 3

Newberry County

Newberry County Sheriff's Office: 4

Newberry Police Department: 1

Total for Newberry County: 5

No Jurisdiction/County Entered County

North Charleston Police Department: 1

Total for No Jurisdiction/County Entered County: 1

Oconee County

Oconee County Sheriff's Department: 5

Seneca Police Department: 1

Walhalla Police Department: 1

Total for Oconee County: 7

Orangeburg County

Eutawville Police Department: 1

Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office: 23

Orangeburg Department of Public Safety: 5



SLED Forensics Lab

Open CSC Cases

Orangeburg County

Santee Police Department: 2

Total for Orangeburg County: 31

Pickens County

Clemson University Police Department: 3

Easley Police Department: 4

Liberty Police Department: 1

Pickens County Sheriff's Office: 5

Pickens Police Department: 2

Total for Pickens County: 15

Richland County

Benedict College Public Safety: 1

Columbia Police Department: 15

Department of Mental Health Public Safety: 1

Forest Acres Police Department: 2

Richland County Sheriff's Office: 4

SC Department of Juvenile Justice: 1

University of South Carolina Police Department: 4

Total for Richland County: 28

Saluda County

Saluda County Sheriff's Office: 2

Total for Saluda County: 2

Spartanburg County

Chesnee Police Department: 1

Duncan Police Department: 2

Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office: 19

Spartanburg Department of Public Safety: 13

Wellford Police Department: 1

Woodruff Police Department: 1

Total for Spartanburg County: 37

Sumter County

Sumter County Sheriff's Department: 12

Sumter Police Department: 5

Total for Sumter County: 17



SLED Forensics Lab

Open CSC Cases

Union County

SC Department of Juvenile Justice: 1

Union Department of Public Safety: 1

Total for Union County: 2

Williamsburg County

Federal Bureau of Prison: 1

Kingstree Police Department: 3

Williamsburg County Sheriff's Department: 3

Total for Williamsburg County: 7

York County

Fort Mill Police Department: 1

Rock Hill Police Department: 22

York City Police Department: 2

York County Forensic Services Unit: 1

Total for York County: 26

Open Cases: 746
