



City of Lawrence
Office of the City Clerk
City Hall, Room 107
200 Common Street
Lawrence, Massachusetts 01840

DANIEL RIVERA MAYOR

**WILLIAM J. MALONEY
CITY CLERK**

**CAROLE MORIN
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK**

www.cityoflawrence.com

INITIAL RESPONSE TO REQUESTOR

A COPY OF THE REQUEST IS ATTACHED.

Date Request Received: 8-27-19; 10 Business Day Date: 9-11-19;

Date of Initial Response: 8-27-19;

Notice to Requestor:

[X] The records requested are not within the possession, custody, or control of the records access officer. The records may be in the possession, custody, or control of another City Department, namely: Lawrence Police Department;

The City of Lawrence reserves the right to exercise any and all exemptions that may require withholding disclosure of records or redaction of information as may be determined by Counsel representing the City of Lawrence, MA

This request has been forwarded to the Department(s) referenced in this response to provide the requested records to the requestor and/or the records access officer;

Thank you for your attention.

**William J. Maloney
City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk
City of Lawrence**

REQUEST FOR RECORDS

CLERK
LAWRENCE, MA

2019 AUG 27 AM 10:03

August 26, 2019

FILED

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BY FEDERAL EXPRESS AND ELECTRONIC MAIL
[REDACTED]@cityoflawrence.comWilliam Maloney
City Clerk
[REDACTED]

2019-FOIA-142

Re: Massachusetts Public Records Request

Dear Mr. Maloney:

We represent the [REDACTED] in connection with its Accountability project and submit this letter to you on its behalf. [REDACTED] is a non-profit organization focused on preventing and remediating sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse. As part of the Accountability project, [REDACTED] is collecting information throughout the country concerning policies and procedures on evidence processing for the crime of rape, as well as information on the processing of rape kits each year. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to end the backlog of untested rape kits throughout the United States and to work with jurisdictions to develop and implement survivor-centered reforms. [REDACTED] is hoping to collaborate with the Lawrence Police Department ("LPD"), as well as other local authorities, in pursuit of this goal.

This letter is a request for information from [REDACTED] pursuant to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M. G. L. c. 66 § 10 (the "Public Records Law"). As you are aware, the Public Records Law provides that the public must have access to public records not specifically exempt from disclosure.

[REDACTED] hereby requests that the LPD provide public records regarding each of the following:

1. Any documentation regarding the number of all sexual assault evidence kits received by the LPD broken down by year;
2. Any documentation regarding the number of sexual assault evidence kits received by the LPD that have been sent to a crime lab for DNA analysis broken down by year;
3. Any documentation regarding the number of sexual assault evidence kits received by the LPD that have not been sent to a lab for DNA analysis and remain in any storage facilities currently under the LPD's jurisdiction and control, the date the kit was originally collected and the reason the kit remains untested;

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4. Any documentation regarding the number of sexual assault evidence kits received by the LPD that have been destroyed or lost; and
5. Any written policies or procedures regarding the LPD's practices on the handling of sexual assault evidence kits, including testing and destruction protocols, and also including any documents defining the meaning of any terms or abbreviations used by the LPD pertaining to sexual assault evidence kits and evidence tracking systems, if applicable.

Please note that **no** private information of individual suspects or victims is being requested, as we fully respect the privacy interests of those individuals. We are happy to work with you to ensure that all privacy regulations are upheld.

[REDACTED] presumes that as the Records Access Officer, you will be the individual whom it can communicate regarding this request. To the extent there are any other individuals to include, please advise.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this matter. We understand that the records requested in this letter may not be available within ten (10) business days and in that event, pursuant to Subsection 10(b) of the Public Records Law, we look forward to receiving a written response stating the time reasonably necessary to produce the records or information. If you cannot comply, you are statutorily required to provide a written response for the delay.

In addition, pursuant to Subsection 10(d) of the Public Records Law, we understand that a fee may be imposed in connection with this request. We would kindly request that you waive any such fee based on the public interest in the requested disclosure. If the fee cannot be waived, please provide an estimate of the fees for the above listed documentation prior to incurring any such fee.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

[REDACTED]