

The Invisible Institute

April 07, 2016

Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq., I hereby request the following records pertaining to investigations of citizen complaints against officers of the Chicago Police Department.

Definitions for Request

“Police officer” includes any person who is or was a sworn member of the Chicago Police Department regardless of rank (e.g., Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Commander, Captain, Lieutenant, etc.).

“Complaint incident” refers to an event from which any complaint of misconduct is made against one or more Chicago police officers, including complaints where no individual has signed an affidavit in support of the complaint and complaints in which the City was unable to identify the accused officer(s).

“Complaint category code” refers to the Department’s complaint category code system (e.g., Excessive Force 05, Racial/Ethnic 01B, Search of a Person without a Warrant 03B).

“Complaint category description” refers to the narrative description of the complaint category code.

“Location code” refers to the code used by the Chicago Police Department to indicate the type of location of a complaint incident, such as a place of business, a residence, or on the street.

“Complaint number” refers to any existing identifying number used to identify a complaint incident, including but not limited to Log numbers, complaint register numbers, or SPAR numbers.

“Outcome of the investigation” refers to the outcome of the investigation as to each allegation as determined by Internal Affairs, the Office of Professional Standards, or the Independent Police Review Authority (e.g., exonerated, not sustained, unfounded, sustained).

“Recommended discipline” refers to the disciplinary action recommended by Internal Affairs, the Office of Professional Standards, or the Independent Police Review Authority, at the conclusion of its investigation.

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“Final outcome of the investigation” refers to the outcome of the investigation following all appeals or reviews of any disciplinary action. (e.g., exonerated, not sustained, unfounded, sustained, etc.)

“Final disciplinary action” refers to the disciplinary action imposed on the accused officer following all appeals or reviews of any disciplinary action.

“Accused officer” refers to any Chicago Police Officer accused of committing any misconduct in the complaint incident.

“Witness officer” refers to any Chicago Police Officer who was identified as a witness in the complaint incident.

“Complaining witness” refers to the individual(s) who complained that any Chicago Police Officer committed misconduct.

“Date of Production” refers to the day this request is processed and furnished.

Request

I. For each complaint incident between April 07, 2012 and the date of production, please provide the following data:

- A. The complaint number
- B. The beat number in which the complaint incident took place
- C. The address at which the complaint incident took place
- D. The location code of the complaint incident
- E. The date that the complaint incident took place
- F. The time that the complaint incident took place
- G. The date that the complaint was received
- H. The date that the complaint file/investigation was closed
- I. For each Investigator, please provide the following data:
 1. The name of the Investigator
 2. Unit of Assignment of Investigator on the date of the complaint incident
 3. Star number of the Investigator if applicable
 4. Date of appointment of the Investigator if applicable
- K. For each accused officer in the complaint incident, provide the following data:
 1. Name
 2. Employee number
 3. Star Number
 4. Gender
 5. Race
 6. Age / or year of birth
 7. Unit of Assignment on the date of the complaint incident

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8. Unit of Assignment on the date of production
9. Rank on the date of the complaint incident
10. Rank on the date of production
11. Date of appointment
12. For each allegation provide the following data:
 - a) The complaint category code
 - b) The complaint category description
 - c) The outcome of the investigation
 - d) The recommended discipline
 - e) The final outcome of the investigation
 - f) The final discipline imposed

L. For each witness officer, please provide the following data:

1. Name
2. Employee number
3. Star number
4. Gender
5. Race
6. Age / or year of birth
7. Unit of assignment on the date of complaint incident
8. Rank on the date of complaint incident
9. Date of Appointment

M. For each complaining witness in the complaint incident, provide the following data:

1. Gender
2. Race
3. Age / or year of birth

It is our position that all the requested information is public and non-exempt under the Act. The Illinois Court of Appeals has made clear that records bearing on allegations of police misconduct are public information, and must be made available to members of the public upon request under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. *Kalven v. City of Chicago*, 2014 IL App (1st) 121846.

Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/6(a), we request the information be furnished in the electronic format in which it is maintained by the Chicago Police Department, not in PDF or paper printouts. If the information is maintained in custom electronic format not currently available to the public, we request the information be furnished in an electronic format that is viewable by standard software, such as Excel, Access, SPSS, SQL, etc. Please provide the data through a file sharing service like Drop Box.

Because we have requested data electronically over a free file-sharing service, there should not be any charges. If there are any charges, we ask that you waive them pursuant to 5 ILCS

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140/6(b), which authorizes you to waive fees when doing so would be “in the public interest.” Because I seek the information in order to disseminate it to the public, and because the information regards the safety, welfare, and legal rights of the general public, the request meets the statutory definition of “in the public interest.” This request is not for commercial benefit as defined in the statute because this request is made by a member of the news media whose principal purpose is to access and disseminate information regarding the general public’s safety, welfare, and legal rights. To the extent you intend to assess any charges, please notify me to discuss first.

Thank you for your time and prompt attention to this matter,

Chaclyn Hunt