Benton County

Request Visibility: W Unpublished

Request 24-287 Popen





Dates

Received

March 18, 2024 via web

Requester

A Heather Kelly

hejokelly@gmail.com

WA

Invoices

Paid - \$0.81 on 03/24/24

Staff assigned

Departments

Prosecuting Attorney

Point of contact

Heather Jones

Request

Amended by Requester 5/8/2024

Thank you for the most recent installment of records. After reviewing what was sent, I'd like to withdraw the portion of my request relating to the incident involving Jose "Joey" Mercado. I am still seeking records from the June 4, 2023 incident. Please let me know if you have any questions or need clarification, and thank you for your assistance.

Best,

Heather

Under the Washington Public Records Act, §42.56 et seq., I am requesting the entire investigative file and any/all related reports in the possession of the Benton County Prosecutor's Office relating to the following incidents involving th...

Show more

Timeline

Documents





Requester + Staff

Dear Ms. Kelly:

We received a message from you in NextRequest on May 8, 2024, regarding

Request Tracking No.: 24-287

tracking number 23-847. You are withdrawing from your request the records relating to the incident involving Jose Mercado and only wish to receive copies of the records regarding Jeffrey Reeder and the incident on June 4, 2023. If this understanding is incorrect, please contact us immediately, otherwise we will be fulfilling your request in accordance with our understanding.

We continue to estimate that the the next installment of non-exempt documents will be available on or before June 13, 2024.

After your amendment to this request, there are approximately 2,580 electronic files equaling 50 GB of data consisting of documents, images, audio, and video. We continue to estimate your request will be fulfilled in its entirety on or before May 13, 2025.

Should you have any questions regarding your request, please contact our office at 509-735-3591. We appreciate your patience while we process your request.

Best Regards,

Heather Jones

Certified Public Records Officer

Benton County Prosecutor's Office

7122 West Okanogan Pl. Suite A230

Kennewick, WA 99336

T: (509) 735-3591 ext. 3333

Heather.Jones@co.benton.wa.us

May 9, 2024, 2:25pm by Staff

Message from requester △



Requester + Staff

Hello,

Thank you for the most recent installment of records. After reviewing what was sent, I'd like to withdraw the portion of my request relating to the incident involving Jose "Joey" Mercado. I am still seeking records from the June 4, 2023 incident. Please let me know if you have any questions or need clarification, and thank you for your assistance.

Best,

Heather

May 8, 2024, 3:25pm by the requester



Message to requester ↑



Requester + Staff

Tracking No. 24-287; Install No. 1

Dear Ms. Kelly:

The first installment of non-exempt records which are responsive to your public records request are ready for release. The total cost for the requested documents is \$.10 [8 electronic records at \$.05 per 4 electronic files]. After applying your down payment of \$0.81, you are left with a credit of \$0.71 that we will apply to the cost of future installments.

You can access the records through your NextRequest account. See Exemption Log for explanation of information that has been redacted and/or withheld. Please note the records have been Bates stamped in order to readily identify records that have been redacted and/or withheld pursuant to the attached Exemption Log.

In the event any of the documents provided to you, or a portion thereof, appear to be privileged or exempt, the disclosure is inadvertent, and the County does not waive any applicable exemption or privilege. If you become aware that any of the documents provided to you appear to be exempt from disclosure, please notify me immediately and promptly return the erroneously released document.

Should you wish to petition for review of any exemption cited in the attached exemption log you may submit a written request for review to the Benton County Prosecuting Attorney's Office pursuant to Benton County Code 5.14.160. This request should specifically refer to the request tracking number and the exemption(s) you are challenging, as well as the Public Records Officer who processed your request.

The next installment of records will be ready for release on or about June 13, 2024. Should that estimate need to be revised, we will notify you as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your public records request, please contact our office at (509) 735-3591.

Best Regards,

Heather Jones

Certified Public Records Officer/Legal Secretary VI

Benton County Prosecutor's Office

7122 West Okanogan Pl. Suite A230

Kennewick, WA 99336

T: (509) 735-3591 ext. 3333

Heather.Jones@co.benton.wa.us

May 5, 2024, 3:40pm by Staff

Document(s) released to requester

Requester + Staff

Exemption Log 24-287_Install No. 1.pdf REDACTED Bates 1-255.pdf

May 5, 2024, 3:40pm by Staff

Document(s) released to requester

Requester + Staff

Down Payment Receipt.pdf

March 25, 2024, 2:43pm by Staff

Message to requester ↑



Requester + Staff

Here is a receipt for your down payment.

Best Regards,

Heather Jones

March 25, 2024, 2:43pm by Staff



Requester + Staff

Re: Request Tracking No. 24-287

Dear Ms. Kelly:

We received your down payment of \$0.81via NextRequest. A receipt for this payment has been uploaded to the document center of your NextRequest account for tracking no. 24-287.

We are reviewing your request and have determined that additional time is needed for legal review of exemptions under the law. Based on this reason, as well as the number of large requests our office is currently processing and

changes to staffing and workload, the documents will be released to you on an installment basis, and we estimate the first installment of releasable documents will be available to you by May 6, 2024. Our office will notify you when the first installment is available, including any additional fees required to fulfill the requested non-exempt records after we apply your down payment to any amount due.

Each installment must be paid in full before the next installment will be made available for release to you. We estimate your request to be fulfilled in its entirety on or about May 13, 2025. Should these estimates need to be revised, we will notify you as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your patience concerning this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your public records request, please contact our office at 509-735-3591.

Best Regards,

Heather Jones

Certified Public Records Officer

Benton County Prosecutor's Office

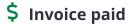
7122 West Okanogan Pl. Suite A230

Kennewick, WA 99336

T: (509) 735-3591 ext. 3333

Heather.Jones@co.benton.wa.us

March 25, 2024, 2:42pm by Staff



Requester + Staff

\$0.81 paid online

\$ Invoice sent - \$0.81



Requester + Staff

Dear Ms. Kelly:

We received your request on March 18, 2024, and it was assigned tracking number 24-287. Please use this tracking number on all correspondence regarding this request. This letter serves to acknowledge your request pursuant to RCW 42.56.520. You have requested:

- 1. The entire investigative file and any/all related reports in the possession of the Benton County Prosecutor's Office relating to an incident on June 4, 2023, involving the fatal shooting of Jeffrey Reeder near Columbia Center Mall in Kennewick by deputies from the Benton County Sheriff's Office.
- 2. The entire investigative file and any/all related reports in the possession of the Benton County Prosecutor's Office relating to an incident on January 21, 2019, involving officers from Richland Police Department tasing Jose "Joey" Mercado.

Our initial search has located 290 electronic files consisting of 45 GB of data, approximately 3,791 pages and 638 minutes of audio and or video. Please note, this estimate does not include any additional records that may be found as we continue our search.

Our office will require receipt of a 10% down payment of \$0.81 for electronic copies, before proceeding with your request. See Benton County Code § 5.14.120(e).

You may submit payment online via Next Request or you may choose to pay in person or via the United States Postal Service. To pay via Next Request, please click on the link. To pay in person or via USPS, please bring in or send your payment to the Benton County Prosecutor's Office at 7122 W. Okanogan Place, Suite A230, Kennewick, WA 99336. Please note, our office does not make change; therefore, payment in the form of cash, check, or money order must be in the exact amount made out to the Benton County Prosecutor's Office.

If we do not receive your down payment of \$0.81 by April 23, 2024, your request will be regarded as abandoned and your request will be closed without further notice to you.

Thank you in advance for your patience concerning this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your public records request, please contact our office at 509-735-3591.

Best Regards,

Heather Jones

Legal Secretary VI/CPRO

Benton County Prosecutor's Office

7122 West Okanogan Pl. Suite A230

Kennewick, WA 99336

March 24, 2024, 3:01pm by Staff



Message to requester ↑



Thank you. Your request has been received and assigned the above tracking number. Please use this tracking number on all correspondence. We will follow-up

within 5 business days and advise you of the status of your request.

Benton County is excited to announce the launch of our public records portal. The portal makes it easy for you to submit requests, get updates, and access documents.

This portal allows us to provide excellent constituent services while strengthening open and transparent government. Our partners at NextRequest help us deliver on these promises by combining the best of modern cloud technology with user centered design.

Check it out at:

https://bentoncountywa.nextrequest.com/

March 18, 2024, 2:13pm

Example 2 Department assignment

Public

Prosecuting Attorney

March 18, 2024, 2:13pm by the requester

Request opened

Public

Request received via web

March 18, 2024, 2:13pm by the requester



