

[Records Center] Sheriff's Office Records Request :: S027611-021424

3 messages

Thurston County Public Records Center <thurstoncountywa@govqa.us>
To: "hejokelly@gmail.com" <hejokelly@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 15, 2024 at 1:17 PM

--- Please respond above this line ---



February 15, 2024

Heather Kelly

WA 98117

Dear Heather Kelly:

In accordance with the Public Records Act (PRA), RCW 42.56.520, this letter acknowledges receipt of your PRA request, submitted to and received by Thurston County TCSO-PDR Section on 2/14/2024.

This request has been assigned tracking number S027611-021424. Please use this number in any communications concerning this request.

Specifically, you requested:

On 11/28/23, I submitted public records request number S026433-112823. In it, I asked for "monthly counts of vehicle pursuits involving the Thurston County Sheriff's Office from 1/1/19 through 11/30/23." I received a list of monthly pursuit totals from Oct. 2021 through Nov. 2023.

I am requesting clarification as to why no data was provided for the entire time period I requested. Specifically, I was not given pursuit data for 1/1/19-09/30/21. Were there any pursuits during that period?

Thank you!

A review of the request S026433-112823 shows that within the letter it states the following: "We do not maintain a spreadsheet or table for the data you are requesting, and do not have data for the dates you have requested. We did, however, go through and count to create the list provided on the document in the attachments."

Our agency is required to follow RCW and WAC codes related to release and providing records for public inspection. The agency is not required to create a record it does not have, but we chose to make the effort to produce data for the most recent two years that were available.

WAC 44-14-04003

(6) **No duty to create records.** An agency is not obligated to create a new record to satisfy a records request. However, sometimes it is easier for an agency to create a record responsive to the request rather than collecting and making available voluminous records that contain small pieces of the information sought by the requestor or find itself in a controversy about whether the request requires the creation of a new record. The decision to create a new record is left to the discretion of the agency.

Hopefully, this explains why you were provided the data from October 2021 to November 2023.

Sincerely,

Lesa Pickett
Support Supervisor

To monitor the progress or update this request please log into the [Thurston County Public Records Center](#)



Heather Kelly <hejokelly@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 15, 2024 at 3:40 PM

To: martina morris <martina.morris@comcast.net>, Shannon Cheng <moojieturtle@gmail.com>

Thurston got back to us saying they didn't keep data for 2019-21. Obviously there were pursuits. Examples:

- <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/news/lakewood-man-pleads-guilty-robbery-burglary-and-assault-charges>
- <https://www.chronline.com/stories/thurston-county-judge-sentences-man-for-assault-car-chase-that-led-to-k9-arlo-shooting,291709>
- <https://tcscannernews.com/2021/04/26/wild-police-chase-of-stolen-vehicle-ends-with-pit-maneuver/>

I'd recommend that we request their policies for 2019-21 and then see what their policies DID require them to record, and ask for that. Open to other suggestions.

Heather Kelly
she/her/hers

[Quoted text hidden]

martina.morris@comcast.net <martina.morris@comcast.net>

Fri, Feb 16, 2024 at 10:29 AM

To: Heather Kelly <hejokelly@gmail.com>

Yeah, they're not accredited. Makes me wonder why they started collecting the data at all (maybe so they could talk about the epidemic of eluding?). But I also wonder whether insurance required any data collection. I know there are insurance risk pools here in WA, and some larger jurisdictions self-insure. Do you have any idea how to find out where TCSO is insured?

Sheriff Sanders is one of the most media-oriented cheerleaders for the rollback, so it's a shame we can't see what's happening in that agency. That said, Sanders is new, he was elected in 2022 I believe. He beat one of the Snaza brothers.

So, yes, let's ask for the policies. And let's see if we can start thinking about insurance info...

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