# P519598-090319 - Non-Commercial Police FOIA Request

## Message History (5)

**CC:** peter.edwards@chicagopolice.org;steve.jarosz@chicagopolice.org
**Subject:** Non-Commercial Police FOIA Request :: P519598-090319
**Body:**
Dear Sarah Ryley,

Please be advised that CPD is standing by our original response. While CPD keeps records for all kinds of criminal incidents, when the incident is a homicide or becomes a homicide (e.g. an aggravated battery injures a person who later dies), we continue to keep that Original Case Incident Report and BOD also begins tracking that homicide independently from the Original Case Incident Report. That is why when we provide homicide data, we must retrieve those records from BOD, which includes the Original Case Incident Report number and the "Cleared (Y/N)" status.

The Original Case Incident Report has a status (0-OPEN ASSIGNED, 1-SUSPENDED, 3-CLEAR CLOSED, 4-CLEARED OPEN, 5-EX CLEARED CLOSED, 6-EX CLEARED OPEN), and homicide records include references to their Original Case Reports. If the Original Case Incident Report status and the status of an associated homicide record were always the same, then providing the Original Case Report status for particular homicide would be straightforward enough; however, that is not the case and therefore cannot be processed in bulk as you are requesting.

In some cases when the data is of a manageable size, we might be able to manually link homicide data to the homicides' Original Case Reports' data and report the Original Case Reports' statuses, in connection with homicide data. However, your request is seeking 18.5 years' worth of data. If we were reviewing small numbers of cases, for example, we might individually and manually review each case status to see whether it matches the associated homicide case status. However, a single criminal incident could have occurred in which multiple criminal offenses were committed and the incident will be considered an incident of the type of the most serious criminal offense, and homicide is the most serious offense on the list. Therefore, it would require an extensive amount of time and research to manually compile this information just for the sake of fulfilling your FOIA request. As a result, this task represents an unduly burdensome action upon the Department.

Another example, if there is an incident where two offenders commit a robbery and one offender shoots and kills a victim, and a second victim is robbed but physically unharmed, the incident will be considered the most serious crime committed -- a homicide -- but the case record will also show that the incident involved a robbery. When counting crime totals, the incident will be counted as a homicide, not a robbery, so that the single incident isn't counted twice. The case will be assigned to BOD and if the homicide offender is not caught, the homicide record of the case will not show that the homicide case is closed. However, there are circumstances under which the Original Case Incident Report will have one status and BOD's associated record will have a different status (not cleared, for example), and as such, linking to the Original Case Report status and suggesting that the Original Case Report status is the BOD case status can be a problem; therefore, providing the "Cleared (Y/N" status that BOD maintains specifically for homicide cases, independent of the case status of the Case Report for the original incident, is the most accurate and was provided to you.

For the above reasons, that is why we provided the status for shootings -- referencing Original Case Reports -- and "Cleared (Y/N" for the requested homicide records. And as such, we stand by our original response.

Thank you,

CPD FOIA Unit

On 9/17/2019 2:33:10 PM, Sarah Ryley wrote:

TO: "Chicago Public Safety"[chicagops@mycusthelp.net]
Thank you for fulfilling my request so quickly. As you know, CPD did not produce all of the fields that I asked for, even though I believe I am entitled to them under the law.
However, in the interest of efficiency, I am willing to forgo the other fields if you could kindly just reproduce the homicide data with the status field that gives specific the detailed case statuses:
0-OPEN ASSIGNED1-SUSPENDED3-CLEARED CLOSED4-CLEARED OPEN5-EX CLEARED CLOSED6-EX CLEARED OPENI know CPD can produce this field for homicides because it was included in a prior request, and it's included in the shootings data, so it shouldn't be too much trouble to re-run the data query with this field included.
Many thanks,
Sarah RyleyInvestigative + Data ReporterThe Trace | 347-324-8697

On Sep 16, 2019, at 3:49 PM, Chicago Public Safety wrote:


Attachments:
14370_P519598_Ryley_Homicides_and_Shootings.xlsx
P519598_Notice_of_Response_to_FOIA_Request.pdf

On 9/16/2019 2:49:19 PM, Chicago Public Safety wrote:

**Subject:** Non-Commercial Police FOIA Request :: P519598-090319
**Body:**
Dear Sarah Ryley,

Please see the attached documents in response to your FOIA request.

Thank you,

CPD FOIA Unit

On 9/3/2019 5:19:38 AM, Chicago Public Safety wrote:


Dear Sarah:

Thank you for your interest in information from the Chicago Police Department. Your FOIA request has been received and is being processed. Your FOIA Center reference number for tracking purposes is: **P519598-**

**090319**

You have requested the following records: *Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting data, preferably in .csv, .xls, .txt, or .xlsx format, pertaining to homicides (including those committed with weapons other than firearms) and non-fatal shootings that have been handled by the Chicago Police Department from Jan. 1, 2001 through the date in which the data export is generated.*

*We would like the data to include the following fields, which are based on fields that are available online or that were included in a prior public records request:*

*• RD_NO (Case Number in the online data)*
*• ID (In the online data, each unique homicide victim has his/her own unique ID)*
*• Date*
*• UCR and IUCR crime type code and description*
*• Weapon Used*
*• Shooting Type (Hit, No hit)*
*• Crime Tyoe*
*• Case Status*
*• Date of Case Status*
*• Arrest Status/ Arrest Indicator (yes/no)*
*• Incident Street Address, City, Zip Code*
*• Latitude and Longitude*
*• Community Area*
*• Police Beat*
*• Police District*
*• Death Cause*
*• Victim Name*
*• Victim Sex*
*• Victim Age*
*• Victim Race*
*• Victim Relationship to Offender*
*• I am also requesting the definitions to any acronyms or terms used in the database that are not self explanatory.*

*If one or more of the fields I requested above is not available in the Chicago Police Department's database(s), please notify me via email and I will strike that field from my request.*

*I would like to receive this information in digital spreadsheet format, such as a .csv or Excel, which I am entitled to under 5 ILCS 140/6(a). (When a person requests a copy of a record maintained in an electronic format, the public body shall furnish it in the electronic format specified by the requester, if feasible.)*

*As a member of the media reporting on matters in the public interest, I am requesting a fee waiver and an expediting of my request. Since I am requesting records in their original electronic format whenever possible, I expect the costs, if any, to be limited.*

*The Freedom of Information Act Each requires a written request to this request within five business days (See 5 ILCS 140/3(d)). If access to the records I am requesting will take longer than this amount of time, please provide an emailed statement with the reason and the approximate date when such request will be granted or denied.*

Chicago Police Department (CPD) responds to all public records requests in accordance with the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq. If further time is needed to assemble and copy all documents responsive to your FOIA request, we will contact you with a time estimate and a request to extend.

**You can monitor the progress of your request at the link below and you'll receive an email when your request has been completed. Thank you for using the Chicago FOIA Center.**

To monitor the progress or update this request please log into the Chicago Public Safety Record System.

✉ On 9/3/2019 5:19:37 AM, Chicago Public Safety wrote:

Request was created by staff