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May 8, 2026

VIA E-MAIL ONLY: agodoy@uw.edu

Angela Godoy
Director, Center for Human Rights
University of Washington
Box 353650

Re: Petition for Public Records Disclosure Order
Oregon State Police
DOJ File No.: 257001-GA0089-26

Dear Ms. Godoy:

This letter is the Attorney General's response to your petition under the Oregon Public Records Law, ORS 192.311 to 192.431. Your petition seeks assistance from the Attorney General in obtaining records you requested from the Oregon State Police (OSP). For the reasons that follow, we respectfully deny your petition.

Your petition stems from a request made to OSP for records relating to specific NLETS queries. OSP responded to you by citing statutory exemptions. Your petition followed. We discussed your petition with OSP's assigned Attorney General contact counsel. OSP indicates that it has no obligation to provide records because your request was made on behalf of a public body, and a public body is not a proper requester under Oregon Public Records Law.

The records request you sent to OSP on April 9 states that you are a "government" requester seeking records on behalf of the University of Washington Center for Human Rights (the Center). Your request further explains that the Center is a public body:

> The University of Washington Center for Human Rights was created by the Washington State Legislature in 2009 and tasked with conducting research on topics relating to human rights to inform public policymaking; these topics include immigrant rights.

The Public Records Law confers on "every person" a right to inspect any public records of a public body in Oregon, subject to certain exemptions and limitations. ORS 192.314(1). The Public Records Law further defines "person" as including "any natural person, corporation, partnership, firm, association, or member or committee of the Legislative Assembly." ORS 192.311(3). The right conferred under the Public Records Law does not, however, extend to public bodies, and we have concluded that a public body may not use the Public Records Law to obtain public records from another public body.[1]

Because the Center is a public body, it is not a proper requester under the Public Records Law. As a result, we cannot order OSP to comply with your request, and we respectfully deny your petition.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN GUTMAN
Deputy Attorney General

DEP:pjn
c via e-mail only: Micah Hubbard (OSP)

[1] *Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual* at 1 (2024); Letter of Advice to Wanda Clinton, Department of Revenue (OP-6049) (June 26, 1987) (Department of Revenue could not use Public Records Law to obtain financial data from local governments); Public Records Order, Oct 7, 2002, Snow (city could not use Public Records Law); Public Records Order, Apr 12, 2007, Giordano (Arizona public body could not use Public Records Law).