



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
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25-ORD-100

April 9, 2025

In re: Ronnie Sparkman/Shelbyville Police Department

Summary: The Shelbyville Police Department (“the Department”) violated the Open Records Act (“the Act”) when it did not issue a timely response to a request it received under the Act.

Open Records Decision

On January 21, 2025, inmate Ronnie Sparkman (“Appellant”) submitted a request to the Department for a copy of a police report “generated by” a specified officer, on a specific date, related to the arrest of a specific person. The Appellant also requested a “copy of the list of evidence taken” and “all the statements given” related to the specified arrest. On March 3, 2025, having received no response from the Department, the Appellant initiated this appeal.

Under KRS 61.880(1), upon receiving a request for records under the Act, a public agency “shall determine within five (5) [business] days . . . after the receipt of any such request whether to comply with the request and shall notify in writing the person making the request, within the five (5) day period, of its decision.” Here, the Appellant submitted a request to the Department on January 21, 2025, and has not received a response to that request.

On appeal, the Department states it received the request on February 4, 2025, but admits it did not timely respond. The Department explains that the request was related to a case assigned to a detective who no longer works for the Department,

which caused the request to be “overlooked and not completed.”¹ Thus, the Department violated the Act.²

A party aggrieved by this decision may appeal it by initiating an action in the appropriate circuit court under KRS 61.880(5) and KRS 61.882 within 30 days from the date of this decision. Under KRS 61.880(3), the Attorney General shall be notified of any action in circuit court, but shall not be named as a party in that action or in any subsequent proceedings. The Attorney General will accept notice of the complaint emailed to OAGAppeals@ky.gov.

Russell Coleman
Attorney General

/s/ Matthew Ray
Matthew Ray
Assistant Attorney General

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Distributed to:

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¹ The Department states it now has “implemented a logging system” to ensure it does not overlook a request again

² The Department states that, upon receiving the notice of appeal, it “immediately gathered and mailed a copy of the requested records to the Appellant on March 13, 2025,” and waived all copying fees.