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26-ORD-073

March 2, 2026

In re: Eric Thomas/Louisville Metro Police Department

**Summary:** The Louisville Metro Police Department (“the Department”) did not violate the Open Records Act (“the Act”) when it denied a request that did not describe the public records to be inspected.

***Open Records Decision***

Eric Thomas (“the Appellant”) submitted a request, identified by the Department as Request 26-1731, for “all information from [his] previous request[s] 26-1542 and 26-522.” The Department denied the request on the grounds that a public agency need not honor a request for information. This appeal followed.

The Act does not require public agencies to fulfill requests for information, but only for specifically described public records. *See* KRS 61.872(2)(a) (providing an agency may require a written application . . . describing the records to be inspected”); KRS 61.872(3)(b) (providing a person requesting copies of public records must “precisely describe[ ] the public records which are readily available within the public agency”). Here, the Department claims the Appellant’s request did not describe the records he wished to inspect. The request, in its entirety, stated as follows (emphasis in original):

I Eric Thomas is your question<sup>1</sup> [*sic*] all information from my previous request 26-1542 and 26-522 under the Kentucky open records Act in [*sic*] the Kentucky Freedom of Information Act witch [*sic*] are the samething [*sic*] **Open Records Act (KRS 61.870 – 61.884):** This is the foundational statute, often called “sunshine laws,” designed to guarantee public access to government documents and meetings. Don’t really care what the AG have [*sic*] to say he’s not above the law if you’re refusing to identify the government official in the video and send me

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<sup>1</sup> Construing the request most favorably to the Appellant, it is possible that the phrase “your question” is a computer transcription error for the word “requesting.”

video of the incident that occurred I'm following with a lawsuit for the violation of the open records Act[.]

Thus, the request consists primarily of a complaint about the Department's disposition of two prior requests, along with a request for "information from" those requests. Because the Appellant did not provide copies of his earlier requests to the Office, they cannot be considered in this appeal. *See* KRS 61.880(2) ("If a complaining party wishes the Attorney General to review a public agency's denial of a request to inspect a public record, the complaining party shall forward to the Attorney General a copy of the written request and a copy of the written response denying inspection."). Accordingly, the Office's review is limited to Request 26-1731, which on its face seeks only "information" and fails to identify "the video" or "the incident" to which it refers.

On appeal, the Appellant claims he wishes to obtain "police body cam footage [f]rom the report [a]nd [e]very name [o]f every government official [i]nvolved in the video [i]ncluding the sheriff including the people in the domestic balance [*sic*] intake window and the prosecutors LMPD25-041607 and LMPD25-041485." However, to the extent the Appellant now attempts to augment his request with additional information, that information cannot be considered in determining whether the request itself contained a description of the records requested. Because the Appellant's request did not describe any identifiable public records, but sought only "information," the Department did not violate the Act when it denied the request.

A party aggrieved by this decision may appeal it by initiating an action in the appropriate circuit court pursuant to KRS 61.880(5) and KRS 61.882 within 30 days from the date of this decision. Pursuant to 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/ James M. Herrick  
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Assistant Attorney General

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