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26-ORD-247

June 2, 2026

In re: Akaash Kashi/Louisville Metro Government

Summary: Louisville Metro Government (“Metro”) did not violate the Open Records Act (“the Act”) when it denied a request for public records on the basis of the requester’s residency.

Open Records Decision

Akaash Kashi (“the Appellant”) submitted a request to Metro seeking seven categories of records related to a 2025 murder. In response, Metro denied the request because the Appellant is not a resident of the Commonwealth as defined by KRS 61.870(10). This appeal followed.

Under KRS 61.872(2)(a), “[a]ny resident of the Commonwealth shall have the right to inspect public records.” “A requester must fit the definition of ‘resident of the Commonwealth’ at the time his request is made.” 25-ORD-018. KRS 61.870(10)(g) defines “resident of the Commonwealth” to include a “news-gathering organization” as defined in KRS 189.635(9)(b).

A “news-gathering organization,” is:

- a. A newspaper or periodical if it:
 - i. Is published at least fifty (50) of fifty-two (52) weeks during a calendar year;
 - ii. Contains at least twenty-five percent (25%) news content in each issue or no more than seventy-five percent (75%) advertising content in any issue in the calendar year; and
 - iii. Contains news of *general interest* to its readers that can include news stories, editorials, sports, weddings, births, and death notices;

- b. A television or radio station with a valid broadcast license issued by the Federal Communications Commission;
- c. A news organization that broadcasts over a multichannel video programming service as defined in KRS 136.602;
- d. A website published by or affiliated with any entity described in subdivision a., b., or c. of this subparagraph; [and]
- e. An online-only newspaper or magazine that publishes news or opinion of interest to a *general audience* and is not affiliated with any entity described in subparagraph 2. of this paragraph[.]

KRS 189.635(9)(b)1.a.–e. (emphasis added). The Appellant does not identify any portion of this statute under which he claims to qualify as a “news-gathering organization.” Nor has he provided any additional information about his employer. Instead, the Appellant only states that he submitted his request “on behalf of a media production organization engaged in gathering information of public interest” and lists his employer as “Matcher Media.”

On appeal, Metro points out that the Appellant’s email address domain name is “drinsanity” and directs the Office’s attention to a YouTube channel of the same name featuring true crime content. As such, Metro asserts that the Appellant’s “media production organization” is merely an online video channel and states that the Office’s decisions in 25-ORD-119 and 25-ORD-141 are instructive.

In those decisions, the Office found that an entity that only publishes video online is not a “news gathering organization” as defined by the Act. The Appellant does not dispute Metro’s position that the organization he represents is only an online video channel. Therefore, absent any evidence to the contrary, the Office finds that Metro did not violate the Act when it denied the Appellant’s request on the basis of residency.

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/ Zachary M. Zimmerer
Zachary M. Zimmerer
Assistant Attorney General

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Distributed to:

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