



# Regressive Policing Under President Trump

An Update on the ACLU's Seven States Safety Campaign, One Year After the Department of Justice Abandoned Police Reform

**ACLU**

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# I. Executive Summary

On May 25, 2020, an officer who had worked for the Minneapolis Police Department for almost twenty years murdered George Floyd by asphyxiation in broad daylight. Three other officers from the Minneapolis Police Department who were present and failed to intervene faced civil and criminal penalties. This murder and other high-profile incidents of police violence caused widespread public outrage. An estimated fifteen to twenty-six million people participated in protests in the aftermath,<sup>1</sup> demanding police accountability.

Across the country, law enforcement agencies and state and local officials responded to these demands with improvements to police practices<sup>2</sup> and investments in safety models that provide an alternative to dispatching police.<sup>3</sup> By January of 2025, as these progressive police reforms took hold, another trend emerged across the country: a significant reduction in the crime rate.<sup>4</sup>

Then, on May 21, 2025—only days before the five-year anniversary of George Floyd’s murder and just four months into the second term of President Donald J. Trump—the United States Department of Justice (“DOJ”) announced an abrupt turnaround.<sup>5</sup> Under President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., the DOJ had opened investigations into twelve law enforcement agencies for misconduct. It issued findings and raised concerns that seven of those agencies were engaged in excessive force and racial targeting, and it secured agreements to implement reforms—known as consent decrees—with two of those seven. But before the ink was even dry on the agreements, the DOJ under President Trump revoked its prior findings in numerous cities and withdrew the consent decrees.

Within the next year, the Trump administration would flood the streets of some of the same cities with lawless federal officers—including in

Minneapolis, where federal agents killed Renee Good and Alex Pretti; shot Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis<sup>6</sup> and lied about the circumstances; and beat Alberto Castaneda Mondragon<sup>7</sup> with a steel pipe, leaving him with eight skull fractures. This is the Trump administration’s regressive approach to policing: winnow protections against law enforcement overreach and roll out draconian and dangerous policing tactics.

There are at least two overarching goals animating the Trump administration’s authoritarian approach to policing. One goal, explicitly stated in an executive order, is to “unleash” law enforcement to aggressively police the public.<sup>8</sup>

A second goal, less explicit, is to disrupt progressive police reform measures that were proving successful and gaining support. President Trump has referred to police violence as “a beautiful sight”<sup>9</sup> and once told officers: “don’t be too nice,” suggesting it would be okay for them to intentionally harm those in police custody.<sup>10</sup> On the first day of his second term, Trump deleted and decommissioned a national database on officer misconduct.<sup>11</sup> The DOJ’s withdrawn consent decrees and reform recommendations, meanwhile, are a veritable greatest hits list of progressive police reforms, such as strengthening accountability for misconduct,<sup>12</sup> tracking and addressing racial disparities,<sup>13</sup> and decreasing reliance on police as first responders to mental health crises.<sup>14</sup>

Though police in the United States are largely under local control, the Trump administration’s regressive approach to policing has used the DOJ’s power to rollback progress on police reform and undermine protections against police abuse.

But the ACLU and its partners were ready. The ACLU anticipated that the Trump administration

would seek to undermine progress on police reform in its second term, including by revoking the DOJ's prior agreements and findings against law enforcement agencies.<sup>15</sup> That the announcement of revocations came on the anniversary of George Floyd's murder was cruel but also predictable. About one hour after the DOJ's announcement, the ACLU and its partners launched the Seven States Safety Campaign to keep accountability and reform moving forward in the seven states where the DOJ found excessive force and racial targeting: Arizona, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, and Tennessee.

This report provides a year-end update on the Seven States Safety Campaign.

As explained below, through the Campaign, the ACLU, ACLU affiliates, and local partners coordinated requests for public records from agencies in each of the seven states. Our primary goal in seeking records was to understand whether the problems with excessive force and racial targeting that the DOJ identified under President Biden were continuing—a visibility that could immediately be useful in pushing local reforms and advancing accountability.

To that end, the Campaign's requests were designed to avoid objections from the targeted agencies and facilitate swift release of information. The most substantive records sought were use of force reports. Based on the ACLU's experience reviewing police records to assess the constitutionality of conduct, we expected that these reports would provide meaningful insight into whether use of force problems persisted. And because officers create use of force reports in the ordinary course of their work and enter them into electronic databases, the reports are public records under state law and are typically not burdensome for agencies to turn over.

In response to the Campaign's requests, the ACLU received over six hundred reports on use of force, as well as other records. Many agencies delayed responding to our requests, and as a result, one year later, some responses are still outstanding.

Based on the ACLU's preliminary review of records, important insights have emerged.

- While the Trump administration proclaimed that change was not needed in the cities it was abandoning, the Campaign has found indications that the problems identified in the DOJ's investigations were continuing at the time the Trump administration made its announcement.
- Our review preliminarily suggests excessive force continues to be a problem across agencies, including but not limited to three areas: improper escalation of force against those in mental health crisis; misuse of conducted energy devices (“CEDs”); and problematic internal reviews of force.
- The ACLU's initial assessment of the responses related to racial disparities suggest reason for concern that racial discrimination has persisted.
- Many of the law enforcement agencies in the seven states maintain records on use of force that are insufficient for identifying excessive force problems, which undermines an agency's ability to root out and prevent excessive force.
- Most of the targeted law enforcement agencies delayed or denied access to records in violation of state laws. This underscores the DOJ's critical role in investigating and reforming state and local law enforcement agencies, given its far greater ability to obtain detailed information about police practices.

# II. The DOJ's Abrupt Abandonment Of Police Reform

## A. The DOJ's Police Misconduct Investigations Under President Biden

Federal law authorizes the DOJ to investigate police departments suspected of engaging in a pattern or practice of misconduct. This authority draws from statutory provisions that permit the DOJ to file civil actions against departments that deprive people of rights guaranteed by the Constitution and federal statutes.<sup>16</sup> Following the mass protests against police violence in the spring and summer of 2020, the DOJ under President Biden opened pattern and practice investigations into twelve law enforcement agencies around the country suspected of pervasive misconduct.<sup>17</sup> This included investigations into police departments responsible for high profile and deeply troubling incidents of brutality against Black people.

### MINNEAPOLIS

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd—a forty-six-year-old Black man and father of five—was arrested by officers from the Minneapolis Police Department after a store clerk accused him of using a counterfeit twenty-dollar bill. One officer handcuffed Floyd and held him face-down on the ground as a second officer, Derek Chauvin, knelt on his neck. A third officer pointed a gun at Floyd's head, and a fourth prevented onlookers from trying to help him. During the nearly ten minutes that Chauvin knelt on his neck, Floyd said more than twenty times that he could not breathe, yet none of the officers intervened. He died as a result of his

injuries. All four officers were convicted on charges related to Floyd's murder.

### MEMPHIS

On January 7, 2023, Tyré Nichols—a twenty-nine-year-old Black man and Memphis native—was driving when he was pulled over by two members of the Memphis Police Department's SCORPION unit. Officers said they stopped Nichols for a driving violation. Seconds after initiating the stop, officers pulled Nichols from his car and pinned him to the ground. Nichols complied with commands, yet officers pepper sprayed him and struck him with a CED. Fearing for his life, Nichols attempted to run to his mother's house nearby while calling out for her. Three more members of the SCORPION unit responded to the incident and all five officers chased him and beat him, while holding his arms behind his back. As Nichols sat slumped over and motionless after the beating, officers celebrated. Nichols died from his injuries days later.

### LOUISVILLE

While executing a no-knock warrant in the middle of the night, plainclothes officers from the Louisville Metro Police Department attempted to forcibly enter

the home of Breonna Taylor—a twenty-six-year-old Black woman and Emergency Medical Technician. While officers attempted to break down the door, Taylor and her boyfriend asked them several times to identify themselves. Hearing no answer, they called the police and Taylor’s boyfriend, fearing an invader, armed himself and fired a shot. The officers then fired at least thirty two bullets into the apartment, including through a glass window covered in blinds. Six bullets struck Taylor, killing her.

## RANKIN COUNTY

A self-described “Goon Squad” in the Rankin County Sheriff’s Office was involved in a string of violent abuses in Mississippi. This so-called squad included, among others, five white officers from the Sheriff’s Office who were later sentenced to prison terms for their misconduct. Multiple Black men died under suspicious, violent circumstances while in Good Squad custody or otherwise interacting with the officers. In 2019, two of the officers were involved in the fatal shooting of an unarmed Black man. In 2021, one of them was involved in the arrest of a man who was struck multiple times with a CED and then died. In 2023, the Goon Squad tortured two Black men—hurling racial slurs while beating them with wooden planks and striking them with CEDs. The deputies sexually assaulted the men, poured alcohol, milk, and eggs on them, and then made them shower to cover up the abuse. An officer shot one of the men in the mouth, shattering his neck and jaw.

During its investigations, the DOJ reviewed extensive records, including but not limited to department policies and training materials; police reports; disciplinary records; civilian complaints; and body-worn camera footage. DOJ investigators interviewed individual officers, local officials, and community members. The DOJ’s investigations were expansive and its findings detailed. In Louisville, as just one example, the DOJ visited every patrol division in the Louisville Metro Police Department, interviewed hundreds of officers, and reviewed thousands of records and hours of footage.<sup>18</sup>

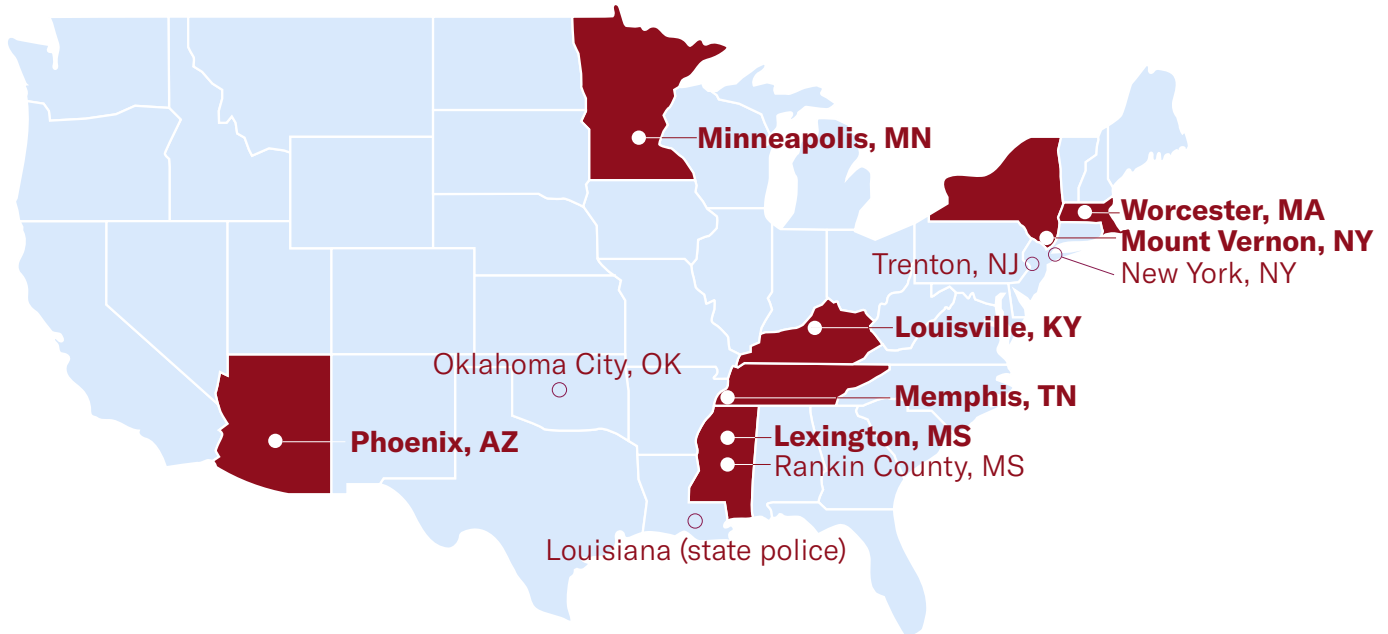
The DOJ has far more power to secure records from law enforcement agencies than the public, and its direct access to law enforcement personnel for interviews is unique. The DOJ’s authority and position allow it to obtain a far more comprehensive understanding of how and why law enforcement misconduct exists and persists. The DOJ’s thorough analyses position it to determine whether there is a pattern of misconduct and, if so, the department practices that contribute to, enable, or encourage that misconduct.

In seven of the twelve Biden-era investigations, the DOJ found a pattern and practice, or significant concerns, that law enforcement agencies were engaged in racial targeting and excessive force: Phoenix, Arizona; Louisville, Kentucky; Worcester, Massachusetts; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Lexington, Mississippi; Mount Vernon, New York; and Memphis, Tennessee. In two of those seven—Worcester and Mount Vernon—the DOJ also found the departments had a widespread problem with sexual misconduct against members of the public. The DOJ’s findings were supported by significant evidence, and the reported examples of abuse were alarming. The DOJ’s findings in each of these seven jurisdictions are reviewed in more depth below.

# Department of Justice Police Misconduct Investigations During the Biden Administration

**Bold = DOJ Found Excessive Force and Racial Disparities**

*Red Highlighted States = Seven States Safety Campaign*



**The DOJ’s findings exemplify a common pattern: Tragic and high-profile incidents of police violence that may appear to be isolated are in fact often an outgrowth of department-wide problems with excessive force and racial targeting.<sup>19</sup>**

## 1. Excessive Force

In each of the seven jurisdictions, the DOJ found excessive force practices that were similar across agencies. These findings were based on the DOJ’s examination of when officers used force, how much force they used, the legality of the force used, and how officers were trained to use force. Investigators found that law enforcement used excessive force

often in response to minor offenses or against individuals who posed no threat.

### EXAMPLE: MINNEAPOLIS

In Minneapolis, the DOJ highlighted the experience of a man in handcuffs who was fully compliant when officers from the Minneapolis Police Department hooked his neck, threw him onto the pavement, and pinned him to the ground on his stomach by placing a knee on his neck. The DOJ reviewed body-worn camera footage of the encounter and found “[t]here was no reason” for this force.<sup>20</sup>

#### EXAMPLE: MEMPHIS

In Memphis, the DOJ documented a concerning practice by the Memphis Police Department of escalating encounters and putting members of the public at risk. They shot at moving cars and fired CEDs at people in crisis. Its investigation surfaced many incidents where officers escalated encounters involving minor infractions. Officers punched, tackled, and threatened people for offenses like failing to stop at stop signs. In one example, officers surrounded a man for littering in a public park, tackled him, pinned him to the ground, and held him down with pressure on the back of his neck.<sup>21</sup>

#### EXAMPLE: LOUISVILLE

In Louisville, the DOJ's investigators found that officers threw drinks at pedestrians from their cars, insulted people with disabilities, and called Black people slurs. In one case, an intoxicated white woman was screaming and crying while sitting on her friend's lawn when an officer approached.<sup>22</sup> After ninety seconds of observing her, the officer antagonized the woman, saying, "we've had enough of you, ok?" He pushed her onto the ground and pinned her with his boot. The woman struggled, and the officer responded by striking her in the face repeatedly with his flashlight. In another incident, a Louisville officer without warning ordered his dog to bite a Black, unarmed, compliant fourteen-year-old boy, at least seven times.<sup>23</sup> At one point, the officer yelled, "Stop fighting my dog," despite the boy lying still. The child suffered extensive injuries and had to be taken to the hospital.

### *i. Sexual Violence*

The DOJ's investigations identified widespread patterns of sexual misconduct by officers in both Worcester and Mount Vernon. While police sexual misconduct in the course of duties is not typically understood as a use of force, it is another form of police violence.<sup>24</sup>

#### EXAMPLE: WORCESTER

In Worcester, the DOJ found that there was reasonable cause to believe officers were engaged in a pattern or practice of improper sexual conduct during undercover operations and that there were multiple credible reports of officers sexually assaulting women under threat of arrest. With respect to the pattern of sexual misconduct, undercover officers exploited women in the course of operations targeted at the sex trade. This included, among other misconduct, that officers touched women's breasts or had women touch their penises. As DOJ found, this behavior is unnecessary for enforcing the law and is itself contrary to law. According to the DOJ's report, women experienced this pattern of misconduct going back to at least 2016. With respect to sexual assault, the DOJ found credible accounts that officers sexually assaulted and raped women, including while officers were on duty and, in some instances, in uniform.<sup>25</sup>

#### EXAMPLE: MOUNT VERNON

The DOJ found that Mount Vernon had a policy of conducting strip searches of any individual arrested, and that it regularly conducted strip searches to fish for contraband for an arrest. When no

contraband was found, the individual would be released. In June 2020, for example, two older women—sixty-five and seventy-five years old—were stopped after officers claimed they saw the women engage in a drug transaction. This was later proven to be false. The women were ordered out of the car and handcuffed, and their car was searched. When officers found no drugs, they transported the two women to the station where they directed the women to completely disrobe, bend over, and cough. When still nothing was discovered, the women were driven back to their car and released.<sup>26</sup>

## 2. Racial Targeting

Another DOJ finding across the seven states concerned discriminatory policing, where Black, Native, or Latino people bore the brunt of the department’s abusive conduct. Several of the DOJ investigations found departments were engaged in a practice of targeting Black, Native, or Latino individuals based on race.

### EXAMPLE: LEXINGTON

In Lexington, Mississippi, the DOJ found evidence that the police department deliberately targeted Black people in its enforcement activities. This pattern was first instigated by a police chief who was caught on recording bragging that he “shot [an] N--- — 199 times.” After his enforcement strategy began, the DOJ found that “the odds that a person [ ] cited was Black increased by 27%, and the odds that a person [ ] arrested was Black increased by 125%.” Put differently, before the change in enforcement tactics, “Black people were 2.5 times more likely to be arrested by [Lexington police] than white people”; after the change, Black people were 12 to 17.6 times more likely to be arrested. Though the police chief was fired, the discrimination persisted, and the disproportionate percentage of Black people targeted for low level enforcement actions dramatically increased. The DOJ found that Lexington treated similarly situated Black and white individuals differently. For example, Lexington arrested far more Black than white people who committed traffic violations.<sup>27</sup>

### How DOJ Police Investigations Work

- 01 • Incident occurs, community calls on DOJ
- 02 ▼ DOJ opens investigation
- 03 ▼ DOJ requests information
- 04 ▼ Findings issued and reforms recommended
- 05 ▼ Reform agreement negotiated
- 06 ▼ Court approval
- 07 ▼ Reforms implemented
- 08 • Reforms completed and agreement ended

#### EXAMPLE: PHOENIX

In Phoenix, the DOJ's investigation found a pervasive practice of discriminatory policing against Black, Latine, and Indigenous people. To reach this finding, the DOJ, among other methods, conducted a "violator" study, which compared discretionary officer-issued tickets to tickets issued automatically by traffic cameras. If Phoenix officers were not taking race into account when deciding which drivers to ticket or arrest, you would expect drivers of all races to be cited or arrested at close to the same rate that each group was found by cameras to commit violations. Instead, this study found significant disparities. For example, among drivers engaged in low-level moving violations near red light cameras, Latine drivers were 40% more likely to be cited or arrested by the police, and Black drivers were 144% more likely to be cited or arrested, compared to white drivers. The study also found that Phoenix officers were 10% more likely to release white drivers stopped for low-level traffic offenses than Latine drivers for the same offenses.<sup>28</sup>

## B. The DOJ's Revocation of Agreements and Findings

Ordinarily, after the DOJ publishes findings from its investigations and proposes reforms, it negotiates with local officials to implement changes that correct the identified problems. This process commonly results in agreed-upon consent decrees, which are legally binding and enforceable agreements between the DOJ and the jurisdiction. If the DOJ and a law enforcement agency are unable to reach an agreement, the DOJ has the power to sue in federal court for an order directing reforms to be implemented.

Unfortunately for the communities affected by the widespread police abuses documented in the DOJ's investigations, the Trump administration abruptly abandoned reform early in Trump's second term. The Trump administration withdrew from litigation to enforce consent decrees and revoked prior investigative findings. Now, one year later, the DOJ's abandonment of communities has persisted in the seven states where there were findings or concerns of excessive force and racial discrimination.

In Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Louisville, Kentucky, the DOJ under Biden secured consent decrees that would have ensured improvements to curb documented excessive force and racial targeting. The Trump DOJ dismissed those actions before the consent decrees could be approved by the courts, which effectively nullified the agreements. The Trump administration also revoked the DOJ's prior findings against police departments in three of the other seven states: Arizona (Phoenix), Tennessee (Memphis), and New York (Mount Vernon).<sup>29</sup> In Worcester, Massachusetts, and Lexington, Mississippi, the DOJ did not revoke findings, but it has not moved for entry of a consent decree. And in Rankin County, also in Mississippi, the DOJ has issued no findings.

The DOJ changed course in these cities only four months after Trump's second term and while the DOJ was radically altering its programs and hemorrhaging employees.<sup>30</sup> In trying to excuse its abrupt reversal, the DOJ vaguely asserted that the findings were unsupported and claimed that consent decrees waste money and interfere with local law enforcement control.<sup>31</sup> The DOJ offered no evidence to back up its criticisms of the prior findings. The whole point of a consent decree is that a local police department, left to its own devices, is engaging in widespread unlawful conduct. And the work of creating and implementing reforms to police practices is not free. The DOJ's swift about face, at a time when the DOJ was experiencing significant internal restructuring and turmoil, suggests reason for skepticism that the DOJ did any serious analysis of prior findings at all.

# III. The Seven States Safety Campaign

In response to the DOJ’s abandonment of police reform, the ACLU and ACLU affiliates filed coordinated public records requests along with local partners in the seven states where the DOJ under Biden found a pattern and practice or serious concerns of racial targeting and excessive force. As to six of the seven states, the Campaign sent records requests to departments that were the subject of the DOJ’s findings. This includes Memphis, Mount Vernon, Phoenix, Minneapolis, Worcester, and Louisville.

In the seventh state—Mississippi—the Campaign took a slightly different approach. The DOJ found Lexington to be engaged in excessive force and racial targeting, but the Campaign targeted nearby Rankin County for the record request. Rankin County was the subject of a DOJ investigation that involved allegations of racialized police violence by the “Goon Squad.” Because of input from local partners that there was a heightened need for a spotlight on Rankin County, the Campaign sent the records request there instead of Lexington.

In most jurisdictions, the ACLU worked closely with local advocacy organizations already engaged in advancing police accountability and reform. This collaboration was central to the Campaign. From the outset, the Campaign was designed to support local reform efforts in jurisdictions where the DOJ identified serious civil rights violations but receded from oversight.

Local partners helped to curate categories of records that the Campaign should seek, with an eye towards documents that would be most useful to the active advocacy efforts of community leaders. Local

organizations also ensured that the requests were grounded in local priorities and that the Campaign would support, rather than duplicate or displace, existing community efforts. Local partners have also kept the ACLU educated about officer misconduct that continues to impact communities. The Campaign remains tied to local demands for accountability.

## PHOENIX, AZ: PODER IN ACTION



Poder in Action is a grassroots organization in Phoenix focused on disrupting and dismantling systems of oppression. They work to build collective power through movement building so that BIPOC and working-class people can have a liberated future.

## LOUISVILLE, KY: LOUISVILLE URBAN LEAGUE



The Louisville Urban League is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, community service organization working to assist Black people and marginalized populations in attaining social and economic equality. They use direct services and advocacy to work to eliminate racism and its adverse impacts on the Louisville community.

## MINNEAPOLIS, MN: COMMUNITIES UNITED AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY



Communities United Against Police Brutality is an all-volunteer organization that works to combat police brutality, both in day-to-day and extreme cases. They are involved in legislative action, education, research, and providing services and support for victims of police brutality and their families.

**MEMPHIS, TN:  
STAND FOR CHILDREN  
TENNESSEE**



Stand for Children Tennessee is a grassroots advocacy organization working to improve education and outcomes for students, advance youth justice, and build safer, more equitable communities for young people and families in Memphis, Shelby County, and across Tennessee.

**RANKIN COUNTY, MS:  
MISSISSIPPI CENTER  
FOR JUSTICE**



Mississippi Center for Justice is a public interest law firm committed to advancing racial and economic justice. They provide legal services, policy advocacy, community education, and media outreach.



# IV. Initial Findings From the Campaign

The Campaign's requests have now been substantially fulfilled, though key productions remain outstanding, and many records were only recently produced. The ACLU received hundreds of records, including more than six hundred reports on use of force. Because many jurisdictions resisted or delayed production of responsive information, the ACLU's review remains ongoing.

Our review has yielded important initial findings.

Overall, based on the subset of records received and reviewed in the Campaign, it appears that problems the DOJ identified under President Biden were continuing at the time the Trump DOJ revoked findings and withdrew from agreements.

## EXAMPLE: LOUISVILLE

In Louisville, where officers killed Breonna Taylor, an individual in handcuffs spit at an officer, and the officer responded by punching him twice in the face.<sup>32</sup> Striking a handcuffed individual's face introduces a high risk of injury to a vulnerable area of the body and is more force than is reasonable. The officer's use of force in this encounter is consistent with the DOJ's finding that officers sometimes used excessive force in retaliation and that the department had a practice of using force disproportionate to reasonable needs.<sup>33</sup>

## EXAMPLE: MINNEAPOLIS

In Minneapolis, where officer Derick Chauvin murdered George Floyd<sup>34</sup> and the DOJ found a pattern of abusive force contrary to local policy, an officer appears to have pinned her knee against an individual's neck for a non-violent and low-level offense.<sup>35</sup> The officer may have used a dangerous technique known to inhibit air and blood flow for no apparently justifiable reason for force at all, against an individual that was ultimately released from police custody without further action.

Our review further found that specific types of abusive force were ongoing when the Trump administration abandoned reform. This includes indicators of improper escalation of force, misuse of force against those experiencing a behavioral health crisis, unsafe use of CEDs, insufficient internal oversight of force, insufficient or improper policy guidance on identified problems, and insufficient record keeping practices. We expound on a subset of these issues below.

## A. Needless Escalation of Mental Health Crises

The DOJ found officers failed to engage in appropriate de-escalation techniques in responding to mental health crises and that this resulted in excessive force, as well as uses of force that could have been avoided with proper de-escalation techniques.

**The ACLU’s review, in turn, found indicators that officers in at least several departments are using dangerous force against those experiencing mental health crises. Our review further found that the officers involved in these encounters knew the individual was in a crisis but did not engage in well-known tactics to de-escalate and prevent harm. Rather, officers escalated situations in a manner that may have caused the need for more serious force.**

#### EXAMPLE: LOUISVILLE

In Louisville, officers responded to a call that a car was partially blocking traffic.<sup>36</sup> They were told this was a possible mental health crisis. The first officer who approached found an individual in the back seat with a rope around his neck. The officer’s first action was to break the front driver’s side window. The individual inside stopped choking himself and said he was sorry and wanted to be left alone. At this point, a second officer arrived and immediately drew his gun. His narrative indicates that the reason he drew the gun was because this was a mental health crisis. Officers should not draw guns during a mental health crisis, both because a mental health crisis alone does not warrant use of a deadly weapon, but also because pulling out a gun can needlessly and harmfully escalate the situation. The first officer then told the second officer to pull the individual from the car. When he did so, the individual was predictably startled, and he pulled a knife from his pocket in response, which led the officers to hit him with a baton and to deploy a CED against him seven times. The use of common de-escalation techniques could have protected both the officers and the individual, and could have prevented the need for such significant force. The officers’ failure to de-escalate was similar to a pattern of dangerous escalation

that the DOJ described in its findings against Louisville.

#### EXAMPLE: MINNEAPOLIS

In Minneapolis, officers responded to a call for an “Unwanted Person.”<sup>37</sup> Upon arrival, an officer observed a woman shouting incomprehensibly and throwing clothes around in a yard. The officer described the woman as having a “dirty” face, “unkempt” hair, and “eyes [that] were unable to focus.” The officer grabbed the woman’s jacket and caused her to fall. Instead of de-escalating by creating space while waiting for help to arrive, the officer pinned her to the ground with his knee on her back for about five minutes. This incident resembles one described by the DOJ where officers responded to check the welfare of an unarmed man and, while waiting for emergency medical services, the officers grabbed his arm, put him in a neck restraint, and pinned him to the ground with a knee on his back for several minutes.<sup>38</sup>

## B. Improper Use of CEDs

CEDs, also known as Tasers, have two modes: probe (or dart) and drive-stun. In probe mode, an officer fires a cartridge that delivers two prongs or darts into a person’s body, which breaks the skin and transmits jolts of electricity. This can result in what’s known as “neuromuscular incapacitation.”<sup>39</sup> In drive-stun mode, an officer presses the CED directly against a person’s skin and pulls a trigger to transmit burning, electrical charges. Even if a CED is not deployed, its display can escalate an encounter.

As the DOJ has indicated, CEDs should not be used against compliant people who are otherwise unarmed or do not threaten officer safety; against those who are already restrained; or when lesser

force is an option.<sup>40</sup> Before CEDs are deployed, officers must provide warnings if feasible. They should also avoid targeting vulnerable parts of the body, such as the person’s head or neck, and officers should seek to mitigate risk of serious harm. In numerous departments in the seven states, the DOJ found officers misused CEDs by being too quick to deploy them, administering too many strikes, or failing to give necessary warnings.<sup>41</sup>

**The ACLU’s review of records found indicators in numerous jurisdictions that officers appeared to be engaged in unreasonable and unsafe CED deployment consistent with the DOJ’s prior findings.**

**EXAMPLE: RANKIN COUNTY**

In Rankin County, seven deputies were involved in an incident in the county jail in which officers struck an unarmed man with a CED when he did not make his bed and refused get out from under the blanket.<sup>42</sup> There is no indication that the individual was struck with a CED for any reason apart from not making his bed.

**EXAMPLE: MINNEAPOLIS**

In Minneapolis, officers were responding to a report of a suspicious person in an alley when they encountered a man holding a metal object who said he was having a cigarette.<sup>43</sup> The man walked away and the officers went after him and told him to stop and drop the metal object. After the man dropped the object—which turned out to be grilling tongs—an officer stunned him with a CED. The man fell and the officer then struck him with a CED again. The repeated use of the CED was excessive, as less serious force could have been used to maintain control of the situation.

## C. Deficient Internal Review of Force

Meaningful review of use of force incidents within a department is an important tool for curtailing and preventing excessive force among officers. This is why the DOJ’s reform recommendations and consent decrees typically include mechanisms to improve supervisory review. In the seven states targeted by the Campaign, the DOJ made findings that supervisors approved unlawful force, failed to adequately investigate, and mischaracterized encounters to justify force after-the-fact. The DOJ classified these reviews as offering “weak oversight” and determined that inadequate force review systems contributed to patterns of excessive force.<sup>44</sup>

**The ACLU similarly found indications that agencies in the seven states provide weak internal oversight of use of force. Departments sometimes used the review process to cover possible misuse of force rather than using it to correct and improve officer conduct. In some departments, internal reviews were non-existent or merely pro forma, which means missing opportunities to intervene and improve officer conduct.**

### Review as cover rather than correction

**EXAMPLE: LOUISVILLE**

During an encounter in Louisville, police responded to a report of an erratic individual banging on a window. They arrived to find an individual fitting the description who was holding a broken umbrella pole. The individual was at first non-compliant, but after he then followed an order to drop the pole, the officers performed an empty hand takedown. This does not appear to have been unreasonable force. In assessing whether the force was reasonable in this encounter, the supervisor repeatedly suggests the individual’s bulky clothing made it unclear whether he might

be armed with a firearm or other weapon. The presence of a firearm implies an immediate and significant threat to officer safety, which brings with it authority to use more serious force. Yet neither officer, in detailed narratives, mentioned the clothing or a concern at the time that his clothing concealed a weapon. This supervisor's addition of the clothing and the possibility of concealed weapons gives the appearance of improperly padding the facts supporting force. Moreover, officers should be choosing the appropriate level of force based on actual perceived facts, not mere possibilities from something as common as bulky clothing.<sup>45</sup>

## Absence of review

### EXAMPLE: MINNEAPOLIS

In Minneapolis, officers responded to a report of an “unwanted person” near an apartment building.<sup>46</sup> There was apparently no information to suggest the person was armed or posed a threat; no specific physical description; and no indication of a suspected violent crime. Upon arriving, the officers observed an individual at the reported location and then drew a gun and CED. The individual complied with commands and was handcuffed and thereafter released. Based on the narrative, the officers had no reason to believe this individual was not permitted in the location, and there was no basis to point a gun and CED at him. Under Minneapolis Police Department policy, no formal supervisory review was required for this encounter.<sup>47</sup> Pointing guns or CEDs risks significant harm, and agencies should be correcting officers when they are too quick to draw them. The absence of review means missing an opportunity for correction.

### EXAMPLE: LOUISVILLE

An officer in Louisville deployed ten CED strikes and the reason he gave for the first strike was that the individual was going to attack him.<sup>48</sup> In the review process, however, those reviewing the use of force changed the facts supporting force from attacking to “active resistance.” An attack might permit more serious applications of force than mere resistance. This factual difference, then, is significant. If an officer is improperly characterizing the facts giving rise to force, that suggests the officer is either improperly observing incidents or is unduly inflating risks. In either case, it should elicit an intervention from the department to correct or prevent misuse of force. Yet, while the reviewers asked for this fact to be changed in the force report, they did not suggest any follow up actions to correct or instruct the officer.

## Review in form but not substance

### EXAMPLE: LOUISVILLE

In several reports in Louisville, supervisors did not conduct a thorough investigation: they did not get detailed statements from the individual subjected to force; they did not probe officers about their decision to use force; and they did seriously contend with witness statements that called the reasonableness of force into doubt.<sup>49</sup> This is consistent with the DOJ's finding that first-line supervisors did insufficient investigations into use of force incidents in Louisville.<sup>50</sup>

#### EXAMPLE: RANKIN COUNTY

In most of the use of force incidents reviewed from Rankin County, the supervisor found “no issue” with the force used, even when force appeared plainly unreasonable. “No issues” were noted with tasing an unarmed, incarcerated person who did not “get out of the tray hole” when asked, for example.<sup>51</sup>

### Reviews correcting misconduct

It was not all bad: Louisville has two levels of review for use of force incidents, and the ACLU’s analysis of Louisville’s production showed examples of that review process working to identify, correct, and improve possible misuses of force.

#### EXAMPLE: LOUISVILLE

The DOJ found that the Louisville Metro Police Department did not properly control the deployment of police dogs. In reviewing the use of a dog in one incident, a Louisville Metro Police Department supervisor failed to assess the reasonableness of the bite, and the force review unit caught this and asked the supervisor to “indicate additional training, if any, on bite release.”<sup>52</sup> The supervisor responded with steps taken to instruct the officer and improve bite release going forward. It is concerning that the supervisor did not initially assess the reasonableness of the bite in the first instance, given the DOJ’s findings of insufficient control of dogs, but it’s promising that the force review unit intervened and action was then taken. Such activity in an internal review can prevent and correct misuse of force.

## D. Racial Disparities

In its analysis, the ACLU prioritized assessing use of force reports because those reports include the most detail about police encounters, which allows for comparatively more substantive insights to be drawn. Our review of other documents, including those concerning racial disparities, is ongoing. Yet the ACLU’s review of use of force reports raises concerns about the persistence of racial discrimination within these agencies.

The DOJ under President Biden found that racial disparities arose in the context of discretionary law enforcement tactics, such as when an officer in the field uses discretion in deciding whether to stop a car. Our review of reports on use of force indicates that officers are improperly exercising discretion when choosing the appropriate amount of force to use during encounters, and, further, that supervisors were not sufficiently correcting officers who improperly used force. The improper exercise of discretion in the context of using force, and the failure of supervisors to intervene, undermines confidence that the abuses of discretion leading to racial targeting have abated.

Our preliminary analysis of racial disparities in the use of force by the Mount Vernon Police Department underscores the concern. Mount Vernon provided a partial response to the record request that includes use of force reports for the years 2020 and 2021. Of individuals involved in the use of force incidents, and whose race was recorded, 70% were Black; 30% were Hispanic; and none were white. This so despite that Black people only make up 57% of the City’s population and white people make up 13% of the population. Meanwhile, the force used in Mount Vernon appears to be excessive: 57% of individuals had a firearm or a CED drawn on them, yet 71% of the individuals were not armed. Together, these data suggest racial disparities in the use of excessive force in Mount Vernon—a city where the Biden DOJ found “serious concerns” that officers were engaged in a pattern of discriminatory policing against Black people.<sup>53</sup>

While the Campaign is continuing to receive material from departments and has filed lawsuits to compel the production of additional records, the ACLU's initial review surfaced concerning practices that might undermine accountability and reform

in the wake of the DOJ's abandonment. Below, we explore those issues through a deeper look at Louisville, Worcester, and Memphis.

## V. A Deeper Look

### A. Louisville

The ACLU's most in-depth review so far has been of force reports from Louisville, and our review indicates that numerous problematic practices identified by the DOJ appear to be continuing.

First, records suggest that officers continue using force improperly against incapacitated or non-threatening individuals, which is consistent with the DOJ's finding that the department had a practice of excessive force against those in restraints or who posed no threat.<sup>54</sup> For example, officers performed takedowns against individuals in handcuffs; struck an individual's face while he was handcuffed; and struck one handcuffed individual's head and body eleven times while another officer was present and did not intervene.<sup>55</sup>

Second, records indicate that Louisville's deployment of police dogs might not be sufficiently controlled, which the DOJ found to be a widespread problem.<sup>56</sup> Our review found multiple encounters where it appears that dogs were not sufficiently controlled during deployment—including one encounter in which a dog bit an individual for over a minute before the officers could get the dog to

release.<sup>57</sup> Sufficient control of dogs is critical, as continued problems with control risk significant injury to members of the public.

Third, the DOJ found that supervisory reports mischaracterized facts underpinning the use of force in a manner that seemingly attempted to legitimate the use of force, which contributed to the department's excessive force pattern.<sup>58</sup> The ACLU's review found indications that this practice has continued. For example, and as discussed above, the ACLU found that supervisors and the internal review unit mischaracterized or amended facts after-the-fact to make the use of force appear more reasonable and did not consistently correct abuses of discretion.

An additional example of a review of force from Louisville helps to demonstrate this problem. In an encounter where an officer used a CED on an individual who had a knife, the force review unit altered the facts from the officer's narrative in a way that made the use of force appear more reasonable. The officer said he used force because he feared the individual posed a threat to an individual who was down the hall. He did not indicate he used force because he feared violence toward himself or other officers. Yet the force unit changed the

reason for force to fear for officer safety, and it added a fact—which the officer did not himself include—that the individual allegedly “loaded [the knife] at shoulder level into a striking position”—which suggests an imminent threat to the officer. While it can be reasonable for officers to use force for the protection of others, it is not appropriate for a force review unit to change the facts that animated an officer’s discretion to use force in a particular incident. It is especially problematic for them to add facts that the officer did not rely on in pulling a trigger.<sup>59</sup>

While there is a serious need for police reform in Louisville, it is notable that the ACLU was able to glean relatively more information about use of force practices in Louisville because local policy requires documentation of officer narratives and the internal review. This level of documentation can foster local trust and accountability—if the city and police department properly and timely act on indications of excessive force.

Community members in Louisville have spent the year since the DOJ’s abandonment advocating for local leaders to seriously commit to reforms by turning the consent decree into local law. The persistence of use of force problems despite the DOJ’s findings suggests that binding the city and the department to reforms through local law is an urgently needed step.

## **B. Worcester**

In issuing its request to Worcester, the Campaign sought information regarding the DOJ’s findings of sexual misconduct by officers, in part because we view such misconduct as a kind of police violence—and a particularly pernicious kind.

The DOJ found that the Worcester Police Department’s pattern of sexual misconduct was caused by inadequate policies, procedures, and trainings.<sup>60</sup> The DOJ further noted concern that the Worcester Police Department failed to “provid[e] guidance on what officers can or cannot do during undercover assignments,” despite knowing of

abuses by undercover officers.<sup>61</sup> The Campaign therefore requested policies, procedures, or rules that would enable the department to identify, discipline, or prevent officer sexual misconduct, including in undercover operations.

Worcester responded that any responsive policies would be within the Worcester Police Department procedures that are posted online,<sup>62</sup> yet those procedures do not contain policies on identifying, disciplining, or preventing sexual misconduct by officers. For example, while those procedures include policies on sexual harassment between employees,<sup>63</sup> they do not include guidance to undercover officers on sexual contact. In 2025, the Worcester Police Department announced a plan to develop policies responsive to the DOJ’s findings,<sup>64</sup> but the sexual assault-related policies described in the announcement do not address the identified omissions and failures. For example, they do not include new policies specific to sexual misconduct by officers or require additional training for undercover operations.<sup>65</sup> Any law enforcement agency should have basic procedures to prevent sexual misconduct by police. The absence of such policies in Worcester is especially troubling given the DOJ’s findings and concerns regarding sexual abuse there.

As with requests in other states, the Campaign’s request to Worcester also sought use of force reports for the period preceding April 30, 2025. At Worcester’s request, the ACLU modified its request to provide a list of one hundred enumerated incident reports, using incident report numbers that are provided on Worcester’s website. In response, Worcester provided some reports but failed to provide forty-two, stating only that “records related to reports of domestic violence have been withheld.”

Worcester’s basis for withholding these records stemmed from a Massachusetts law<sup>66</sup> that permits an agency to withhold reports of intimate, family, or sexual violence—a law that is meant to protect survivors by shielding the details of incidents reported to police that are particularly sensitive. Although some state trial courts in dicta have

suggested that a police report that relates in any way to a sexual assault is not a public record, other courts have rightly recognized that the law should be used sparingly and that redactions should be used where possible, rather than complete withholding.<sup>67</sup> An overbroad interpretation of this exemption, as invoked by Worcester, creates an unusually broad exception to public access to police records. A report from Boston's public radio service showed how, although the law was "intended to protect the privacy and safety of victims of domestic and sexual violence," it has instead "protected perpetrators and police," and "[n]o other state has a confidentiality law so broad."<sup>68</sup>

Such an erroneously broad reading of the law potentially prevents the public from accessing a large number of records relating to police behavior. Domestic violence calls, for example, are a significant proportion of calls to which police respond.<sup>69</sup> Withholding excessive force reports related to domestic violence investigations therefore could result in withholding numerous reports relevant to understanding police conduct.

After the Campaign followed up with Worcester asking for clarification regarding which records had been withheld, Worcester amended its response by producing additional records and reducing the number of records withheld based on the domestic violence exemption to thirteen. While this amended response reduced the number of reports withheld, it still resulted in shielding from public scrutiny over ten percent of the records sought.

The use of a statute designed to protect survivors of domestic and sexual violence as a basis for withholding records of police activity is concerning for an additional reason: Police have been found to engage in sexual misconduct during the course of investigations into domestic or sexual abuse,<sup>70</sup> which may in part be due to the fact that such encounters give police access to and power over individuals in a vulnerable position. This is consistent with the DOJ's finding in Worcester

that there were credible reports of sexual abuse by officers in response to requests for assistance.<sup>71</sup> Because of this, withholding records concerning police response to domestic violence-related incidents could undermine transparency and accountability as to sexual abuse by the police. Reliance on the statute to exempt records of police activity from public scrutiny thus turns a protection for survivors into a sword against them.

## C. Memphis

The beating of Tyré Nichols and his tragic death days later began with a traffic stop by a specialized unit engaging in saturation patrols, where large numbers of officers simultaneously deploy to discrete geographic locations. The DOJ's investigation later found that the Memphis Police Department had a pattern of targeting Black drivers for traffic stops and then dramatically escalating encounters while not observing constitutional limits on authority. Central to this pattern was the use of specialized units to conduct aggressive saturation patrols in predominantly Black neighborhoods.

Memphis refused to enter a consent decree with the DOJ. The mayor argued the City could reform itself.<sup>72</sup> At the urging of local advocates and stakeholders, the city announced the creation of a task force to review the DOJ's recommendations and issue a reform plan.<sup>73</sup> But the City's compliance with any recommended reforms would be entirely voluntary. Retired federal judge Bernice Donald was to helm the task force. She committed to transparency, stating that "the promise of change is sunlight."<sup>74</sup>

But then came the Trump administration. Less than four months after the Trump administration revoked the DOJ's findings against the Memphis Police Department, Trump issued a Presidential Memorandum dispatching scores of federal agents to Memphis.<sup>75</sup> The memorandum directed federal agents to use aggressive saturation patrols in specific neighborhoods in coordination with

the Memphis Police Department, among other local agencies.

Investigative reporting has since shown that this deployment has resulted in racially biased and violent law enforcement encounters, particularly through the aggressive use of traffic stops in predominantly Black neighborhoods.<sup>76</sup> The irony is unmistakable: the DOJ under Trump revoked findings of police misconduct related to racially-biased and violent saturation patrols, then affirmatively ordered the same misconduct in a community on the precipice of reform. Meanwhile, the reform task force has issued no public information about its operations—despite community demands for updates— and appears to have stalled.

As the federal task force descended on Memphis with aggressive traffic stops targeting Black drivers, the city of Memphis was staking out its position as the least transparent law enforcement agency in the Seven States Safety Campaign. In response to the Campaign's request, Memphis issued a flat denial that was wholly inconsistent with its obligations under state law. No other jurisdiction in the Campaign issued such a denial.

In summarily denying the request, the City's Public Records Office summarily provided a vague basis for its denial (the emphasis is theirs):

The City has reviewed your request and has determined that **your request is overly broad/vague therefore your request is denied pursuant to the following statutory exception: Tenn. Code Ann. §10-7-503(a)(4)**. A records custodian is not required to sort through files and compile information to create or recreate records that do not already exist; and requests must sufficiently identify the records.

This completes your public records request with the City of Memphis.

The response did not provide a valid basis for denial, and it also failed to comply with the law's requirement that any denial be specific and that the agency work with the requestor to facilitate production.

What's more, Memphis ignored the Campaign's offer to work collaboratively to facilitate production. Campaign partner Stand for Children Tennessee sent a letter to Memphis on September 18, 2025, pointing out the impropriety of the denial and making clear that litigation would follow if Memphis persisted in its denial.<sup>77</sup> But persist it did. Memphis did not respond to the letter, even after the Campaign's multiple follow-up emails.

On February 24, 2026, the ACLU, Stand for Children Tennessee, and our local counsel brought a lawsuit against Memphis to force production of the records.<sup>78</sup> Only then did Memphis finally agree to respond. This production is continuing, as is the ACLU's review.

The city of Memphis is no doubt under tremendous pressure from the Trump administration. But its resistance to transparency is enabling the aggressive policing happening there now.

# VI. Campaign Methods

## A. Information Sought

State sunshine laws require non-federal government agencies to provide information in response to requests from members of the public. Across all seven jurisdictions, state laws require production of public records from state and municipal law enforcement agencies. The Seven States Safety Campaign principally sought documents that would provide insight into officer use of force, racial targeting, and police oversight, all covering a period in early 2025 when the DOJ abandoned reform. The Campaign designed requests to avoid

objections and to seek records that should be non-burdensome to produce.

In six states, we requested one hundred or more use of force reports closest in time to April 30, 2025, representing sets of fifty reports for different types of force. In Mount Vernon, New York—the seventh state—we sought all use of force reports since 2020. Law enforcement agencies commonly define force using levels, such as defining a “level 3” use of force to include deploying a CED and a “level 1” as handcuffs. But not all agencies use the same definition for each level. The Campaign sought

### Information Requested from Police Departments

● requested    — not requested

	Use of Force Reports	Use of Force Policies	Discrimination/ Bias Policies	Search and Seizure Policies	Use of Force Data	Stop records or data
Phoenix	●	●	●	●	●	●
Memphis	●	●	●	●	●	—
Mount Vernon	●	●	●	●	●	●
Louisville	●	—	—	—	●	●
Rankin County	●	●	●	●	●	—
Worcester	●	—	—	—	—	—
Minneapolis	●	●	●	●	●	●

#### Other Information Requested

**Mount Vernon** — Policies, trainings, records related to strip searches and misconduct investigations

**Louisville** — Statistical data on disciplinary actions; use of force audits

**Rankin County** — Policies and procedures; Data on CEDs and racial discrimination.

**Worcester** — Policies, trainings, and data related to police sexual misconduct

reports that would most likely capture significant but not deadly force, and that meant requesting different levels across agencies depending on local definitions.

In addition to use of force reports, the Campaign sought agency policies and procedures related to racial targeting and discrimination. In some jurisdictions, we also sought data concerning racial disparities.

While requests across the seven states are substantially similar, there are differences that stem from differences in local policies, the DOJ's findings, or local conditions. For example, the Campaign sought documentation concerning supervisory review only where such documentation is created under local policy. And in Minneapolis, the Campaign sought information from two agencies rather than only the one subject to the DOJ's findings. We did this because Minneapolis is subject to a state consent decree and the additional request—to the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office—would provide a more complete picture of stop activity in Minneapolis by bringing in an agency not under outside oversight.

The requests are provided in full in the appendix to this report.

## **B. How Agencies Responded**

Agency responses varied in terms of timing and substance. Each of the agencies delayed production to some extent, and three agencies delayed all or a significant subset of their production for over a year or more. Two agencies outright refused to produce information in contravention of clear legal obligations. Delays and unfounded denials are an indicator of a culture that perpetuates police misconduct: resistance to transparency about police practices undermines accountability and allows misconduct to flourish. Because of this overlap between resistance to transparency and the perpetuation of misconduct, we provide more detail on agency responses below.

## **1. Timing of Responses**

Though the Campaign issued substantially similar requests to each jurisdiction, and though the relevant provisions of state sunshine laws were also substantially similar, law enforcement agency response times and objections significantly varied. Some agencies voluntarily produced records while others only responded after threats of litigation. Memphis did not respond at all until after *Stand for Children Tennessee* brought litigation with the ACLU.

Within three months of sending information requests, the ACLU received initial substantive productions from Rankin County, Minneapolis, and Louisville. Each of those productions included only a subset of information sought, and negotiations were required to obtain more complete responses.

The response from Phoenix was mixed. In August 2025, the department produced policies, data, and traffic reports, but refused to produce use of force reports and documentation about internal review of use of force. Phoenix speciously asserted that these records were too burdensome to produce, despite that these records are maintained electronically in the ordinary course of business. The ACLU spent months communicating with Phoenix to facilitate production to no avail and is now pursuing litigation to force production. Given that the DOJ found the Phoenix Police Department to be engaging in dangerous excessive force on a widespread basis, the city's resistance to providing use of force reports is concerning.

In Worcester, within a month of the Campaign's request, the city indicated that any responsive policies would be within the policies provided online, and that use of force reports and other information would be produced on a rolling basis. One month later, Worcester had not provided any further response, and the Campaign inquired as to status and offered to discuss facilitating production. After receiving no response for another month, the Campaign reached out again, this time warning that the lack of response appeared in violation of

the law and expressing a desire to avoid litigation. Worcester then produced the information sought.

Mount Vernon provided policies, training materials, and strip search logs two months after receiving the Campaign's request. It took Mount Vernon about seven months from the request to begin producing use of force reports and, as of the publication of this report, the Campaign is still awaiting the production of additional records.

Memphis, in stark contrast to every other agency, refused to provide documents responsive to any requests until after the Campaign filed a lawsuit. As explained above, the refusal of Memphis to respond to the request until it faced litigation was in contravention of its plain statutory obligations, and its effort to hide public records following findings of police misconduct suggests a serious accountability problem.

**Memphis and Phoenix were the most resistant to providing use of force reports despite that those reports easily fall within the records that are required to be produced under local law, suggesting that these agencies are less transparent and less accountable than their peer agencies in the Seven States Safety Campaign.**

Hennepin County in Minnesota initially ignored the Campaign's request altogether. After five months without a response, the ACLU sent a demand letter in November 2025 detailing how Hennepin County violated the state's public records act by failing to produce responsive records. Eight days later, Hennepin County responded and produced data on traffic stops.

The ACLU is continuing to review productions.

## 2. Substance of Responses

In each state, the Campaign sought in-depth information about use of force practices. Assessing the lawfulness of force requires knowing the crime suspected; the facts immediately before the

deployment of force; and the type and severity of force used. Assessing the sufficiency of internal controls on use of force requires knowing how force is reviewed within the department and how supervisory personnel responded when it appeared improper force was used. If law enforcement agencies fail to sufficiently review officer use of force, this suggests the agencies are not taking appropriate steps to reign in abuse.

The Campaign has so far received over six hundred reports of use of force across the seven states, yet the information contained in force reports varied significantly across the departments. Numerous departments failed to provide information that is critical to assessing the lawfulness of force, either by refusing to produce relevant information within records or failing to document such information in the first instance.

### EXAMPLE: MINNEAPOLIS

Minneapolis produced hundreds of force reports, but many reports contained only a "Public Narrative" about the incident. These narratives provided minimal detail—they were often only a few lines. For example, in one Public Narrative, an officer who used Level 2 Force—which could mean, among others, discharging a chemical aerosol, using a CED, or conducting a takedown—wrote that "[o]fficers were dispatched to an assault in progress. The suspect in the incident fought with Officers. Officers arrested the suspect for obstruction."<sup>79</sup> There's no way to tell from this description what force was used or whether that force was excessive.

**Some agencies do not record sufficient information to enable an assessment of whether the force being used is excessive, which means the agency's recording practices limit the**

**agency’s ability to learn of, intervene in, and prevent excessive force.**

**EXAMPLE: RANKIN COUNTY**

Rankin County provided use of force reports in a spreadsheet format. The columns provided space to capture the force level, demographic variables, de-escalation, subject behavior, and the force description. Several entries were sparse, making it difficult to understand why the force was used and whether it was reasonable. For example, in one incident, the only information we have is that the subject engaged in “[a]ctive [r]esistance,” had “mental issues,” and was unarmed.<sup>80</sup> An officer struck him with a CED.

Some agencies withheld or failed to record information that would permit an assessment of whether problems specifically documented by the DOJ were continuing. Where this was a failure to record in the first instance, it indicates the agency is not recording information about force that would enable it to intervene and prevent abusive practices despite the DOJ’s findings of abuse.

**EXAMPLE: MOUNT VERNON**

In Mount Vernon, the DOJ made a particularly harrowing finding that officers, as a matter of course, subjected every arrested person to unlawful strip and body cavity searches until at least October 2022. Although body cavity searches might not be categorized as a use of force, these searches are physically invasive and painful, and it is not uncommon for the person being searched to experience it as an assault.<sup>81</sup> The DOJ found that logs documenting strip searches in Mount Vernon might not be

capturing strip searches because officers might be conducting strip searches outside a supervisor’s presence, contrary to policy.<sup>82</sup> The Campaign requested logs containing information on strip searches from 2023 onwards. In response, Mount Vernon produced three spreadsheets that contained one entry and were otherwise blank. The absence of strip searches in the logs might mean no strip searches have occurred; but it could also mean that officers are conducting strip searches without a supervisor present.

Some agencies appeared to maintain information relevant to understanding the appropriateness of force but were withholding that information from public scrutiny.

**EXAMPLE: MINNEAPOLIS**

Minneapolis produced both a “Public Narrative” and “Non-Public Narrative” for several use of force incidents. In one, the Public Narrative states that officers arrested a male after a foot pursuit and then charged him with “4th degree assault after elbowing a police officer in the face.”<sup>83</sup> The Non-Public Narrative provides more detail, and that detail raises questions about the appropriateness of the use of force. Information in the Non-Public Narrative suggests the individual’s strike was accidental, that the officer believed the individual to be armed simply because the individual reached into his waistband, and that in fact the individual was not armed.

The Campaign’s experience in seeking records from law enforcement agencies demonstrates that ordinary members of the public face significant hurdles in gaining insight into police practices.

Many agencies targeted by the Campaign refused to provide information that the law plainly required them to produce, or delayed production until the ACLU threatened to sue or did sue. Moreover, it took time and resources to facilitate the production of responses given improper delays or denials, and most private individuals lack both time and resources. The DOJ, on the other hand, has substantial power and resources to obtain information from police departments in a timely fashion. The DOJ's position and authority to investigate police misconduct gives the DOJ a far better ability to identify and thereby root out widespread abuses.

This dynamic further demonstrates the callousness in the Trump administration's revocation of the DOJ's prior findings and consent decrees. Law enforcement agencies engaged in misconduct can—and, as this Campaign shows, will—abuse their control over police records to hide misconduct. Before the Trump administration, the public could rely on the DOJ to shine a light on police abuse. In shutting off that light, the Trump administration has undermined police reform and accountability, and it has put public safety at risk.



## VII. What Comes Next

Over the past year, the Trump administration has shown the world what unaccountable policing looks like. In Minneapolis, after shredding a consent decree that would have curbed racial profiling and excessive force, the Trump administration deployed a mass of federal agents outfitted for warfare who terrorized the local community with deadly violence, unlawful stops, and racial targeting.<sup>84</sup> In Memphis, after revoking findings of racial profiling and other unlawful, aggressive tactics, the Trump administration flooded the city with federal agents who appear to be similarly engaged in racial targeting and aggressive stops, in coordination with local law enforcement.<sup>85</sup>

Indeed, across the country, the Trump administration is enlisting local law enforcement in tactics that violate the right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures and the right to equal protection of the law.<sup>86</sup>

Meanwhile, in many of the cities the Trump DOJ abandoned, local law enforcement agencies continue to engage in troubling encounters that perhaps could have been avoided, if the DOJ's recommended reforms had been implemented. In Phoenix, since the DOJ issued its findings of widespread excessive force, officers have repeatedly landed in the news for serious violence, such as severely burning a man by improperly holding him to the scalding hot pavement,<sup>87</sup> and killing a man after shooting at the wrong person.<sup>88</sup> Just recently, in Louisville, an officer shot and killed an individual experiencing a mental health crisis.<sup>89</sup> The withdrawn DOJ consent decree in Louisville would have instituted significant reforms to behavioral health crisis response.<sup>90</sup>

In each of the seven states affected by the Trump administration's abandonment, local stakeholders have displayed remarkable resolve to continue progress on police reform. The residents of Minneapolis inspired the nation in protesting law enforcement violence against their neighbors, and they organized to drive out Trump's immigration force. Some local police departments are resisting pressure to cooperate with Trump's regressive tactics, including in Massachusetts. A community-based police reform coalition in Louisville is unrelenting in its demands to turn their abandoned consent decree into binding law that guarantees reform.<sup>91</sup> And a coalition of community stakeholders in Memphis is actively opposing the mass deployment of federal agents there.<sup>92</sup>

In the next phase of the Seven States Safety Campaign, the ACLU will continue its assessment of police conduct in the seven jurisdictions. We will continue pursuing litigation as needed to ensure complete responses to our records requests. We will work with affiliates and local partners to use the information obtained through the Campaign to advance a vision of public safety that includes safety from police violence.

And the ACLU will support local communities in the continued push for police transparency, accountability, and progressive reform. Anyone committed to protecting against police abuse should do the same.

# Endnotes

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# Appendix Contents

## **ACLU's Submitted Records Requests**

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# **Appendix A**

## **(Rankin County, Mississippi)**



May 21, 2025

*Via U.S. Mail*

Rankin County Sheriff's Department  
Attn: Public Records Request Official  
221 N. Timber St.  
Brandon, MS 39042

### REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RECORDS

Dear Records Custodian:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi and American Civil Liberties Union Foundation (together, "ACLU"), this letter serves as a public records request pursuant to Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983 ("PRA"), Miss. Code Ann. § 25-61-1, et seq., for records that are in the possession of the Rankin County Sheriff's Department or its employees (collectively, "RCSD"). This request seeks records concerning RCSD's policies, practices, and procedures related to use of force, racial discrimination, and abuse of position.

**A. The ACLU requests the following public records<sup>1</sup> from May 21, 2024, through the date this request is submitted:**

1. Records containing the total number of, respectively, Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Use of Force Reports (*see* RCSD Policy and Procedure Manual ("P&P") No. 4.02).<sup>2</sup>
2. Records containing the total number of deployments of Conducted Energy Devices ("CEDs") (*see, e.g.,* P&P No. 4.01 (defining CED)).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *See, e.g.,* Miss. Code Ann. § 25-61-3 ("Public records' shall mean all books, records, papers, accounts, letters, maps, photographs, films, cards, tapes, recordings or reproductions thereof, and any other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, having been used, being in use, or prepared, possessed or retained for use in the conduct, transaction or performance of any business, transaction, work, duty or function of any public body, or required to be maintained by any public body.")

<sup>2</sup> All RCSD P&P citations refer to the 2023-2024 RCSD Policy and Procedure Manual, which is available at [https://www.rankincounty.org/egov/documents/1701123364\\_55782.pdf](https://www.rankincounty.org/egov/documents/1701123364_55782.pdf). Capitalized terms used herein but not otherwise defined have the meanings set forth in RCSD's Policies and Procedures.

<sup>3</sup> *See also* Brian Howey & Nate Rosenfeld, *How a 'Goon Squad' of Deputies Got Away With Years of Brutality*, N.Y. Times (updated Mar. 27, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/30/us/rankin-county-mississippi-sheriff.html>

3. All data maintained by the RCSD related to Complaints of Biased Policing, Racial Profiling, Racial Discrimination, or Racial Harassment pursuant to P&P Nos. 3.05<sup>4</sup> and 2.06, or reports containing such data.

**B. The ACLU requests the following records concerning Use of Force incidents:**

4. Level 2 Use of Force Reports (*see* P&P No. 4.02) for fifty (50) separate incidents that are closest in time to, and pre-date May 21, 2025.
5. Level 3 Use of Force Reports (*see* P&P No. 4.02) for fifty (50) separate incidents that are closest in time to, and pre-date May 21, 2025.
6. Records containing the outcomes of fifty (50) closed Compliance Director Force Reviews conducted pursuant to P&P No. 4.02 (including reviews of Level 3 Use of Force events and random audits of Level 2 Use of Force events) that are closest in time to, and pre-date May 21, 2025.
7. Reports regarding fifty (50) separate deployments of CEDs (also known as “Taser Logs”)<sup>5</sup> that are closest in time to, and pre-date May 21, 2025, and corresponding Incident Reports for each such CED deployment.

**C. The ACLU requests the following public records regarding RCSD policies, procedures, or rules:**

8. Full copies of the RCSD Policy and Procedure Manual<sup>6</sup> including all policies (P&P Nos. 1.01 - 8.02 or end of manual) for the following time periods:
  - a. Current in-use version;
  - b. Version in use prior to November 20, 2023; and
  - c. Version in use between November 20, 2023, and September 14, 2024.
9. Records containing RCSD’s policies, procedures, or rules—outside of and/or in addition to the RCSD Policy and Procedure Manual—for identifying and addressing possible violations by RCSD employees and/or officers regarding (A) Use of Force (*see* P&P Nos. 4.01, 4.02), (B) Racial Discrimination, Racial Harassment, Racial Profiling, or Biased Policing (*see* P&P Nos. 2.06, 3.05), and (C) Abuse of Position (*see* P&P No. 1.13) for the following time periods:
  - a. Current in-use version(s);
  - b. Version(s) in use prior to November 20, 2023; and

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(“Every time a Taser is fired, the device keeps a record of it. In Rankin County, deputies upload this data to a computer, compiling detailed departmentwide logs that allow supervisors to monitor deputy Taser use.”).

<sup>4</sup> *See* P&P No. 3.05 (“The RCSD will maintain data relating specifically to complaints of biased policing. Information shall be provided to the Sheriff in a manner most suitable for administrative review, problem identification, and development of appropriate corrective actions.”).

<sup>5</sup> *See supra* note 3 (describing Taser Logs).

<sup>6</sup> The 2023-2024 version of this manual containing only P&P Nos. 1.01 - 4.02 is currently available on the RCSD website: [https://www.rankincounty.org/egov/documents/1701123364\\_55782.pdf](https://www.rankincounty.org/egov/documents/1701123364_55782.pdf).

c. Version(s) in use between November 20, 2023, and September 14, 2024.

The ACLU seeks only non-privileged, non-exempt, public records in accordance with Miss. Code. § 25-61-1, et seq. The ACLU does not seek personal identifying information of witnesses or victims, other personal information protected from disclosure, or any other records exempt from disclosure under the PRA.

If this records request is denied in whole or in part, please indicate (1) whether the record(s) in question exist and, if so, (2) the statutory exemption(s) you are claiming prevents their release. With respect to asserted exemptions, please provide an explanation, including the statutory or factual basis, for the determination that the requested material is exempt from disclosure. In addition, this request is made with the assumption that you will redact any such information that, without redaction, would otherwise preclude you from complying fully with this request. For any redactions, please provide the specific exemption you are claiming for each instance of redaction. In addition, ensure the redactions are clearly delineated and identified so that a redaction can be differentiated from a blank section of the record. This request is ongoing, so should any requested materials that were initially considered exempt become non-exempt, please notify us.

Please provide the requested records in electronic form if it is feasible and economical to do so. E-mails transmitting less than 10 MB of data may be sent to [afrankel@aclu.org](mailto:afrankel@aclu.org), or arrangements can be made to supply you with a CD, flash drive, or email address capable of receiving larger quantities of data. If the responsive data is not available in electronic form, please send it by first class mail.

If there are a significant number of documents responsive to this request, we ask that you produce documents on a rolling basis, rather than waiting until all documents are assembled to produce them.

The ACLU does not seek records for any commercial purpose. Because this request involves a matter of public concern and because it is made on behalf of nonprofit § 501(c)(3) organizations dedicated to the protection of civil rights and liberties, we ask that you decline to impose costs. If you decide to impose costs and such costs will exceed \$100, please contact me for approval prior to completing the request.

Please comply with this request within seven (7) business days from the receipt of this request. *See* Miss. Code § 25-61-5(1)(a).

We are available to answer any questions or clarifications you may have about this request, and will readily work with you to establish a process for fulfilling this request in an efficient and economical manner. Please contact Allison Frankel to discuss this request.

Thank you for your time and assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Allison Frankel

Allison Frankel

Jenn Rolnick Borchetta

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# **Appendix B**

## **(Louisville, Kentucky)**

May 21, 2025

Records Custodian  
Louisville Metro Police Department  
701 West Ormsby Avenue  
Louisville, KY 40203  
<https://louisvillemetrogov-ky.nextrequest.com/requsts/new>

***Via electronic online submission***

RE: Request for Public Records Under Kentucky’s Open Records Act, KRS § 61.870, *et seq.*

Dear Custodian of Records,

On behalf of the ACLU of Kentucky and the Louisville Urban League,<sup>1</sup> we write to submit an Open Records Act request seeking the opportunity to inspect and copy certain public records that are “prepared, owned, used, in the possession of or retained by” the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD). KRS § 61.870(2).

This request seeks copies of public records concerning LMPD’s policies and practices related to use of force and investigative stops. This request specifically seeks copies of the following public records:

1. Reportable Force Administrative Incident Reports (Use of Force Reports) (see SOP 9.3.7)<sup>2</sup> for the fifty (50) separate incidents involving Level 2 uses of force that are closest in time to, and predating, April 30, 2025; and, for each, the corresponding:
  - a. Use of Force Involved Officer Statement (LMPD form #24-001).
  - b. Any completed findings and recommendations from the Force Investigations Review Unit (FIRU) (see SOP 9.3.14).

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<sup>1</sup> The ACLU of Kentucky and the Louisville Urban League are Kentucky-based nonprofit organizations whose principal place of business is in Louisville, Kentucky. Thus, each organization is a “[r]esident of the Commonwealth” for purposes of this request. KRS § 61.870(10)(b); § 61.872(1).

<sup>2</sup> “SOP” refers to LMPD Standard Operating Procedures.

## Kentucky

2. Use of Force Reports for the fifty (50) separate incidents involving Level 3 uses of force that are closest in time to, and predating, April 30, 2025; and, for each, the corresponding:
  - a. Use of Force Involved Officer Statement (LMPD form #24-001).
  - b. Any completed findings and recommendations from the FIRU.
3. Use of Force Reports for the fifty (50) separate incidents involving use of force that are closest in time to, and predating, September 30, 2024.
4. Citizen Stop Reports (see SOP 3.6, 7.12) involving traffic stops for the fifty (50) separate traffic stops where an arrest was made that are closest in time to, and predating, May 21, 2025; and, for each, the corresponding arrest report.
5. Citizen Stop Reports (see SOP 3.6) involving pedestrian stops for the fifty (50) separate pedestrian stops where an arrest was made that are closest in time to, and predating, May 21, 2025; and, for each, the corresponding arrest report.
6. LMPD Chief's Office's annual statistical summary of complaints and disciplinary action on departmental members, for 2022, 2023, and 2024 (see SOP 2.10.1).
7. Any compilation of statistics of use of force data for the LMPD command staff and the Performance Review Board ("PRB"), such as would have been required under the Consent Decree (see Consent Decree, *United States v. Louisville Metro/ Jefferson County Government*, ¶ 152) closest in time to, and predating, May 21, 2025.<sup>3</sup>
8. Any audit of Use of Force Reviews, such as would have been required under the Consent Decree (see Consent Decree, *United States v. Louisville Metro/ Jefferson County Government*, ¶ 153) closest in time to, and predating, May 21, 2025.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Paragraph 152 provides: "LMPD will compile statistics of relevant force-related data for the LMPD command staff and PRB. LMPD may accomplish this by generating a regularly-updated dashboard."

<sup>4</sup> Paragraph 153 provides: "LMPD will periodically audit Use of Force Reviews to identify significant trends, to correct deficient policies and practices, and to improve performance and supervision."

## Kentucky

9. Documents that identify the total number of Use of Force Reports, and the total number of each level of force recorded, for the period May 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025.

We seek only non-privileged, non-protected, public data, and we do not seek personal identifying information of witnesses or victims, or other personal information protected from disclosure.

If you choose to withhold any documents that are responsive to this request, please note that KRS § 61.880(1) requires that you identify the specific Open Records exception “authorizing the withholding of the record and a brief explanation of how the exception applies to the record withheld,” and that you notify us within five (5) days of this request. In addition, this request is made with the assumption that you will redact any such information that, without redaction, would otherwise preclude you from complying fully with this request. For any redactions, please provide the specific exemption you are claiming for each instance of redaction. In addition, ensure the redactions are clearly delineated and identified so that a redaction can be differentiated from a blank section of the record. This request is ongoing, so should any requested materials that were initially considered exempt become non-exempt, please notify us.

You must comply with this request by delivering electronic copies to [corey@aclu-ky.org](mailto:corey@aclu-ky.org), or by sending hard copies to the office of Corey Shapiro at the address provided in the signature block below, pursuant to KRS § 61.872(3)(b). Arrangements can also be made to supply you with a CD, flash drive, or email address capable of receiving larger quantities of data.

We do not seek records for any commercial purpose. If the costs of responding will exceed \$100, please contact Mr. Shapiro for approval prior to completing the request. We are available to answer any questions you may have about this request and will readily work with you to establish a process for fulfilling this request in an efficient and economical manner.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and attention to this matter, and we look forward to receiving your response.



325 W. MAIN ST.  
SUITE 2210  
LOUISVILLE, KY 40202

(502) 581-9746  
ACLU-KY.ORG  
@ACLUofKY

Sincerely,

Corey M. Shapiro  
Legal Director  
American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky  
325 W. Main St., Suite 2210  
Louisville, KY 40202  
(502) 581-9746  
[corey@aclu-ky.org](mailto:corey@aclu-ky.org)

Lyndon Pryor  
President & CEO  
Louisville Urban League  
1535 West Broadway  
Louisville, KY 40203  
(502) 585-4622

# **Appendix C**

## **(Memphis, Tennessee)**



Tennessee

May 21, 2025

Memphis Police Department  
Attn: Records Office  
170 North Main St.  
7th Floor, Suite 7-11  
Memphis, TN 38103  
mpdrecords@memphistn.gov

***Via City of Memphis Open Records Act Portal and Email***

Re: Request for Public Records Pursuant to the Tennessee Public Records Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-501, *et seq.*

Dear Custodian of Records,

We write to request records from the Memphis Police Department (“MPD”), *see* Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-301(6). This request seeks copies of records concerning MPD’s use of force and stops. To aid us in understanding MPD’s recent practices in these two areas, please provide the following records in accordance with the Tennessee Public Records Act:

1. Response to Resistance Forms for fifty (50) separate incidents that are closest in time to, and predate, April 30, 2025 (*see, e.g.*, MPD Policies and Procedures (“P&P”) 03-010 § 4.12.5),<sup>1</sup> including uses of force by any specialized unit; and any corresponding completed Inspectional Services Bureau review (*see* P&P 03-010 §§ 3.3.1; 4.12.5).
2. Blue Team Incident Reports for fifty (50) separate incidents that are closest in time to, and predate, April 30, 2025, including uses of force by any specialized unit. *See* P&P 03-010 § 4.12.2.
3. Blue Team Pointed Weapon Reports for fifty (50) separate incidents that are closest in time to, and predate, April 30, 2025, including uses of force by any specialized unit. *See* P&P 03-010 § 4.12.2(4).

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<sup>1</sup> All MPD P&P citations refer to the MPD’s Policies and Procedures, available at <https://www.memphispolice.org/policies-and-procedures/>. Capitalized terms used herein but not otherwise defined have the meanings set forth in the MPD’s Policy and Procedure Manual.

4. The fifty (50) reports and memoranda, closest in time to, and predating, April 30, 2025, created when an adult was injured or claimed to have been injured as a result of an officer's use of force, including uses of force by any specialized unit. *See* P&P 03-010 § 4.6.3.
5. The fifty (50) reports and memoranda, closest in time to, and predating, April 30, 2025, created when a juvenile was injured or claimed to have been injured as a result of an officer's use of force, including uses of force by any specialized unit. *See* P&P 03-010 § 4.6.4.
6. Field Investigation Memos for fifty (50) separate incidents that are closest in time to, and predate, April 30, 2025, including those involving any specialized unit. *See* P&P 03-040 § 4.3.2.
7. Annual Use of Force Analyses of Reports for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, including but not limited to those required under P&P 03-010 § 4.12.6.
8. Documents sufficient to identify the total number of use of force incidents for the period June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025, and the total number of each level of force (*e.g.*, Level 1, Level 2, etc.) in that period.
9. MPD's policies, procedures, or rules in effect immediately prior to January 7, 2023, related to (a) use of force; (b) search, seizure, and field interviews; and (c) racial discrimination, racial profiling, or discriminatory law enforcement practices, to the extent they are different from those currently in effect. In the alternative, we would also accept a redline comparing the current and former policies, if available.

For purposes of this request, "records" shall mean "all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, photographs, microfilms, electronic data processing files and output, films, sound recordings, or other material, regardless of physical form or characteristics made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by any governmental agency." Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-301(6).

If you claim that any document or portion thereof is exempt from inspection under Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-504, or under any other statute or judicial decision, as to each document or portion you claim to be exempt, please state the basis for the exemption in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-503(a)(2)(B), and identify the document or portion by date; by sender, recipient, or author; and by a description of the contents sufficiently detailed to enable an independent evaluation of the exemption.

If you choose to deny any portion of this request, please note that Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-503(a)(2)(B) requires that, within seven (7) business days, you “[d]eny the request in writing or by completing a records request response form developed by the office of open records counsel. The response shall include the basis for the denial.” In accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-504, please identify the specific statutory exception authorizing the withholding of the record and provide a brief explanation of how the exception applies to the record withheld. This request is made with the understanding that, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-503(a)(5), you will redact only those portions of records that are specifically exempt from disclosure, and provide an explanation that complies with MPD’s “redaction practices” and policies in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. §10-7-503(g)(B). For any redactions, please specify the statutory exemption you are claiming for each instance of redaction, and ensure that the redactions are clearly marked so that they can be distinguished from any blank or missing sections of the record.

Pursuant to state law, **please provide an electronic copy of your responses to this request to Stella Yarbrough at [syarbrough@aclu-tn.org](mailto:syarbrough@aclu-tn.org)**. Arrangements can also be made to supply you with a CD, flash drive, or email address capable of receiving larger quantities of data.

Please notify us if the fees associated with responding to this request will exceed \$100.00 before completing the request. We are available to answer any questions you have about this request and will readily work with you to establish a process for fulfilling this request in an efficient and economical manner. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and attention to this matter, and we look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

Stella Yarbrough  
*Legal Director*  
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Tennessee  
[syarbrough@aclu-tn.org](mailto:syarbrough@aclu-tn.org)  
(615) 320-7142

Cardell Orrin  
*Executive Director*  
Stand for Children  
[corrin@stand.org](mailto:corrin@stand.org)

# **Appendix D**

## **(Minneapolis, Minnesota)**



May 21, 2025

*Via Data Request Portal*

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office  
Data Practices Office  
sheriffsofficedata@hennepin.us  
(612) 543-3515

## REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RECORDS

Dear Records Custodian:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota Foundation (together, "ACLU"), and Communities United Against Police Brutality, this letter serves as a request for public records pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Chapter 13 (MGDPA).

The above-named organizations request copies of data constituting, describing, or relating to the following records, in effect from May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025, unless the date is otherwise provided.

1. All data, provided in Excel or CSV format, describing and/or reflecting the total number of **traffic stops**, including but not limited to stops of vehicles pursuant to traffic law and regulation enforcement and suspicious vehicle stops, and for each, the following information:
  - a. The officer/s involved in the encounter;
  - b. The number of officers involved in the encounter;
  - c. Other agencies involved in the encounter;
  - d. The criminal or civil infraction involved in the encounter;
  - e. The location of the encounter;
  - f. The date of the encounter;
  - g. The time of the encounter;
  - h. The length of time of the encounter;
  - i. Whether a search of a person/s was conducted;
  - j. Whether a search of the vehicle was conducted;
  - k. The result of the search, including whether contraband was found;
  - l. Whether a citation was issued;
  - m. Whether a summons was issued, and if so, the top charge of the summons;
  - n. Whether an arrest was made, and if so, the top charge of the arrest;

- o. The race and/or ethnicity and/or national origin of the stopped individual/s;
  - p. The age of the stopped individual/s; and
  - q. The gender of the stopped individual/s.
2. All data, provided in Excel or CSV format, describing and/or reflecting the total number of **pedestrian stops**, including but not limited to stops pursuant to law and regulation enforcement and suspicious person stops, and for each, the following information:
    - a. The officer/s involved in the encounter;
    - b. The number of officers involved in the encounter;
    - c. Other agencies involved in the encounter;
    - d. The criminal or civil infraction involved in the encounter;
    - e. The location of the encounter;
    - f. The date of the encounter;
    - g. The time of the encounter;
    - h. The length of time of the encounter;
    - i. Whether a search of a person/s was conducted;
    - j. The result of the search, including whether contraband was found;
    - k. Whether a citation was issued;
    - l. Whether a summons was issued, and if so, the top charge of the summons;
    - m. Whether an arrest was made, and if so, the top charge of the arrest;
    - n. The race and/or ethnicity and/or national origin of the stopped individual/s; and
    - o. The age of the stopped individual/s; and
    - p. The gender of the stopped individual/s.
  3. For the data provided in items 1 and 2, documents, records, manuals, keys, and/or legends that provide the following:
    - a. A description of the structure or format of the response;
    - b. A description of each field in the dataset provided; and
    - c. An explanation of all abbreviations and acronyms.
  4. Records sufficient to identify databases that contain information about traffic stops.
  5. Records sufficient to identify databases that contain information about pedestrian stops.
  6. Records sufficient to identify databases that contain information about race and/or ethnicity (including Indigenous identity) of individuals stopped.
  7. Reports documenting a search as described in Search and Seizure – Documentation (Document Number 322.4) for fifty (50) separate incidents that are closest in time to, and pre-date, April 30, 2025.

The requesters seek only non-privileged, non-protected, public data in accordance with the MGDPA. Minn. Stat. § 13.01, subd. 3. The requesters are not seeking personal identifying information of witnesses or victims, or other personal information protected from disclosure.

For the data requested above that your office does not produce, please provide an explanation, including the statutory or factual basis, for the determination that the requested material is exempt from disclosure, and describe any material that is deleted, redacted, or withheld. This request is ongoing, so should any requested materials that were initially considered exempt become non-exempt, please notify us.

The requesters expect a written acknowledgement of this request within ten working days, or we will conclude that the request has been denied.

Further, please provide the requested records in electronic form if it is feasible and economical to do so. Emails transmitting less than 10 MB of data may be sent to [sanand@aclu.org](mailto:sanand@aclu.org), or arrangements can be made to supply you with a CD, flash drive, external hard drive or email address capable of receiving larger quantities of data. If the responsive data is not available in electronic form, please send it by first class mail.

If there are a significant number of documents responsive to this request, we ask that you produce documents on a rolling basis, rather than waiting until all documents are assembled to produce them.

The requesters will pay for the cost of providing the data described above. If the cost exceeds \$25.00, please contact me for approval prior to completing the request. (Please note: copy costs are limited to \$0.25 per page for document requests that do not exceed 100 pages.)

We are available to answer any questions you may have about this request, and will readily work with you to establish a process for fulfilling this request in the most efficient and economical way possible. Please contact Sapana Anand to discuss this request.

Thank you for your time and assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sapana Anand  
Sapana Anand  
Jenn Rolnick Borchetta  
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
FOUNDATION  
(917) 634-6285  
[sanand@aclu.org](mailto:sanand@aclu.org)

Alicia Granse  
Catherine Ahlin Halverson  
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
FOUNDATION OF MINNESOTA  
(612) 274-7790  
[agranse@aclu-mn.org](mailto:agranse@aclu-mn.org)

Michelle Gross  
COMMUNITIES UNITED AGAINST POLICE  
BRUTALITY  
(612) 703-1612  
[info@cuapb.org](mailto:info@cuapb.org)

# **Appendix E**

## **(Mount Vernon, New York)**



May 21, 2025

*Via Electronic Mail*

Minneapolis Police Department  
Attn: Public Records Officer/Custodian  
Minneapolis Public Service Building  
505 Fourth Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

### **REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RECORDS**

Dear Records Custodian:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota Foundation (together, “ACLU”), and Communities United Against Police Brutality, this letter serves as a request for public records from the Minneapolis Police Department (“MPD”) pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Chapter 13 (MGDPA). The above-named organizations request copies of data constituting, describing, or relating to the following records:

#### **Concerning force and incident reports:**

1. Uses of force recorded in PIMS (“Use of Force Reports”) (see MPD Policy and Procedure Manual 5-302) for fifty (50) separate incidents involving Level 1 uses of force that are closest in time to, and predate, April 30, 2025; and the corresponding:
  - a. Narrative Text.
  - b. Use of Force details page.
  - c. Police Report.
  - d. Supplemental Report.
  - e. Street Check.
  
2. Use of Force Reports for fifty (50) separate incidents involving Level 2 uses of force that are closest in time to, and predate, April 30, 2025, and the corresponding:
  - a. Narrative Text.
  - b. Use of Force details page.
  - c. Police Report.
  - d. Supplemental Report.
  - e. Street Check.
  - f. Secondary Force Review.

- g. Final determination by Internal Affairs.
  - h. Final determination by the MPD Deputy Chief of Internal Affairs. See MPD Policy and Procedure Manual 5-303: Use of Force Review.
3. Use of Force Reports for ten (10) separate incidents of Level 3 uses of force that are closest in time to, and predate, April 30, 2025, and the corresponding:
    - a. Narrative Text.
    - b. Use of Force details page.
    - c. Police Report.
    - d. Supplemental Report.
    - e. Street Check.
    - f. Secondary Force Review.
    - g. Final determination by Internal Affairs.
    - h. Final determination by the MPD Deputy Chief of Internal Affairs.
  4. Critical Incident Reports and Statements (see MPD Policy and Procedure Manual 7-810: Critical Incidents) for fifty (50) separate incidents that are closest in time to, and predate, April 30, 2025, and the corresponding:
    - a. Police Report.
    - b. Public Safety Statement.
    - c. Voluntary Statement.
    - d. Final determinations by the Administrative Investigating Entity.

**Concerning policies and procedures:**

5. Documents that identify MPD's policies, procedures, or rules that are currently in effect related to (a) search and seizure; (b) use of force; and (c) racial discrimination, racial profiling, or biased law enforcement practices.
6. Documents that identify MPD's policies, procedures, or rules that are currently in effect for identifying and addressing possible violations of laws or MPD policies concerning (a) search and seizure; (b) use of force; and (c) racial discrimination, racial profiling, or biased law enforcement practices.
7. Documents that identify MPD's policies, procedures, or rules in effect immediately prior to June 16, 2023 related to (a) search and seizure; (b) use of force; and (c) racial discrimination, racial profiling, or biased law enforcement practices, to the extent different from those currently in effect.

**Concerning data for the period May 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025:**

8. Documents that identify the number of Use of Force Reports, and the total number of, respectively, Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 uses of force.
9. Documents that identify the number of Critical Incident Reports and Statements.

10. All data, provided in Excel or CSV format,<sup>1</sup> describing and/or reflecting the total number of **traffic stops**, including but not limited to stops of vehicles pursuant to traffic law and regulation enforcement and suspicious vehicle stops, and for each, the following information:
- a. The officer/s involved in the encounter;
  - b. The number of officers involved in the encounter;
  - c. The civil or criminal infraction involved in the encounter;
  - d. The location of the encounter;
  - e. The date of the encounter;
  - f. The time of the encounter;
  - g. The length of time of the encounter;
  - h. Whether a search of a person/s was conducted;
  - i. Whether a search of the vehicle was conducted;
  - j. The result of the search, including whether contraband was found;
  - k. Whether a citation was issued;
  - l. Whether a summons was issued, and if so, the top charge of the summons;
  - m. Whether an arrest was made, and if so, the top charge of the arrest;
  - n. The race and/or ethnicity and/or national origin of the stopped individual/s;
  - o. The age of the stopped individual/s; and
  - p. The gender of the stopped individual/s.
11. All data, provided in Excel or CSV format,<sup>2</sup> describing and/or reflecting the total number of **pedestrian stops**, including but not limited to stops pursuant to law and regulation enforcement and suspicious person stops, and for each, the following information:
- a. The officer/s involved in the encounter;
  - b. The number of officers involved in the encounter;
  - c. The criminal or civil violation or infraction involved in the encounter;
  - d. The location of the encounter;
  - e. The date of the encounter;
  - f. The time of the encounter;
  - g. The length of time of the encounter;
  - h. Whether a search of a person/s was conducted;
  - i. The result of the search, including whether contraband was found;
  - j. Whether a citation was issued;
  - k. Whether a summons was issued, and if so, the top charge of the summons;
  - l. Whether an arrest was made, and if so, the top charge of the arrest;
  - m. The race and/or ethnicity and/or national origin of the stopped individual/s;
  - n. The age of the stopped individual/s; and
  - o. The gender of the stopped individual/s.

---

<sup>1</sup> This request should include information documented in Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), Mobile Digital Computer (MDC), and CAPRS report and supplement. See MPD Policy and Procedure 9-201: Search and Seizure.

<sup>2</sup> This request should include information documented in Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), Mobile Digital Computer (MDC), and CAPRS report and supplement. See MPD Policy and Procedure 9-201: Search and Seizure.

12. For the data provided in bullet points 10 and 11, documents, records, manuals, keys, and/or legends that provide the following:
  - a. A description of the structure or format of the response;
  - b. A description of each field in the dataset provided; and
  - c. An explanation of all abbreviations and acronyms.

The requesters seek only non-privileged, non-protected, public data in accordance with the MGDPA. Minn. Stat. § 13.01, subd. 3. The requesters are not seeking personal identifying information of witnesses or victims, or other personal information protected from disclosure.

For the data requested above that your office does not produce, please provide an explanation, including the statutory or factual basis, for the determination that the requested material is exempt from disclosure, and describe any material that is deleted, redacted, or withheld. This request is ongoing, so should any requested materials that were initially considered exempt become non-exempt, please notify us.

The requesters expect a written acknowledgement of this request within ten working days, or we will conclude that the request has been denied.

Further, please provide the requested records in electronic form if it is feasible and economical to do so. Emails transmitting less than 10 MB of data may be sent to [sanand@aclu.org](mailto:sanand@aclu.org), or arrangements can be made to supply you with a CD, flash drive, external hard drive or email address capable of receiving larger quantities of data. If the responsive data is not available in electronic form, please send it by first class mail.

If there are a significant number of documents responsive to this request, we ask that you produce documents on a rolling basis, rather than waiting until all documents are assembled to produce them.

The requesters will pay for the cost of providing the data described above. If the cost exceeds \$25.00, please contact me for approval prior to completing the request. (Please note: copy costs are limited to \$0.25 per page for document requests that do not exceed 100 pages.)

We are available to answer any questions you may have about this request, and will readily work with you to establish a process for fulfilling this request in the most efficient and economical way possible. Please contact Sapana Anand to discuss this request.

Thank you for your time and assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sapana Anand  
Sapana Anand  
Jenn Rolnick Borchetta  
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
FOUNDATION  
(917) 634-6285

[sanand@aclu.org](mailto:sanand@aclu.org)

Alicia Granse  
Catherine Ahlin Halverson  
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF  
MINNESOTA FOUNDATION  
(612) 274-7790  
[agranse@aclu-mn.org](mailto:agranse@aclu-mn.org)

Michelle Gross  
COMMUNITIES UNITED AGAINST POLICE  
BRUTALITY  
(612) 703-1612  
[info@CUAPB.org](mailto:info@CUAPB.org)

# **Appendix E**

## **(Mount Vernon, New York)**



May 21, 2025

**Via email to [foilnylaw@ci.mount-vernon.ny.us](mailto:foilnylaw@ci.mount-vernon.ny.us)**

Brian G. Johnson  
Corporation Counsel  
Office of the Corporation Counsel  
One Roosevelt Square, Room 111  
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

**Re: FOIL Request – Mount Vernon Police Department Records**

To Whom it May Concern:

The New York Civil Liberties Union and the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation make this request under the Freedom of Information Law (“FOIL”) for access to information and copies of records concerning the Mount Vernon Police Department’s use of force, arrests, investigative stops, strip searches, racial discrimination, and officer misconduct.

We request the following:

1. Current MVPD policies and protocols concerning:
  - a. strip searches, visual cavity searches, and/or body cavity searches,
  - b. use of force,
  - c. pedestrian stops, and/or vehicle stops (including MVPD’s Motor Vehicle Stops Operational Procedure<sup>1</sup>),
  - d. arrests and/or detentions,
  - e. evidentiary practices,
  - f. racial profiling and/or racial discrimination,
  - g. responding to people with mental illness, and/or emotional distress, and/or behavioral health issues,
  - h. officer misconduct investigations.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.justice.gov/d9/2024-12/findings\\_report\\_-\\_investigation\\_of\\_the\\_mount\\_vernon\\_police\\_department.pdf](https://www.justice.gov/d9/2024-12/findings_report_-_investigation_of_the_mount_vernon_police_department.pdf) at 22.

2. Documents concerning MVPD trainings, including transcripts, PowerPoints, handouts or other materials concerning:
  - a. strip searches, visual cavity searches, and/or body cavity searches,
  - b. use of force,
  - c. pedestrian stops, and/or vehicle stops,
  - d. arrests and/or detentions,
  - e. evidentiary practices,
  - f. racial profiling and/or racial discrimination,
  - g. responding to people with mental illness, and/or emotional distress, and/or behavioral health issues,
  - h. officer misconduct investigations.
  
3. For the time period of January 1, 2020, to the present, records—including any databases or similar systems maintained by the department in electronic, tabulated form—reflecting:
  - a. total number of complaints made against MVPD officers,
  - b. dispositions of those complaints, including if discipline was imposed,
  - c. concluded internal investigations into complaints concerning (i) use of force, (ii) pedestrian or vehicle stops, (iii) racial discrimination, racial profiling, or biased law enforcement practices, (iv) false arrest, (v) mishandling evidence, (vi) falsifying documents, and/or (vii) use of strip searches, visual cavity searches, or body cavity searches.<sup>2</sup>
  
4. From the time period of January 1, 2023, to the present, any logs containing information on strip searches, visual cavity searches, and/or body cavity searches conducted by MVPD officers.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> This request includes all documents from complaints referenced in the statement: “Upon entering office in 2020, our administration identified over 50 unprocessed complaints and inherited a whistleblower case. After review, we sent over a dozen cases to the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office in 2020 and 2021 for further investigation. Additionally, in February 2021, we contracted Special Council for Police Discipline which has resulted in the termination of (3) three police officers, (2) civilian employees (3) stipulations of retirement as well as discipline for multiple officers and civilian employees. There were an additional three officers who were relieved of duty for reasons other than unconstitutional policing.” <https://cmvny.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=672>.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.justice.gov/d9/2024-12/findings\\_report\\_-\\_investigation\\_of\\_the\\_mount\\_vernon\\_police\\_department.pdf](https://www.justice.gov/d9/2024-12/findings_report_-_investigation_of_the_mount_vernon_police_department.pdf) at 15 (“According to MVPD’s new log, it has conducted only a single strip search and no cavity searches since 2023”).

5. From the time period of January 1, 2020, to the present, records containing aggregated data or otherwise collected data— including any databases or similar systems maintained by the department in electronic, tabulated form— showing:
  - a. The total number of people subject to any use of force by the MVPD, broken down by race,
  - b. The total number of people arrested by the MVPD, broken down by race and charges,
  - c. The total number that have been stopped by the MVPD, broken down by race,
  - d. The total number that have been frisked by the MVPD, broken down by race.
6. From the time period of January 1, 2020, until the present, records reflecting uses of force reported pursuant to Executive Law §837-t and any concluded internal investigations into those uses of force.<sup>4</sup>
7. Any final reports created in response to the United States Attorney’s Office Southern District of New York Civil Division and United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division’s December 12, 2024 Investigation of the Mount Vernon Police Department.
8. Mount Vernon Police Reform Commission Updates from 2023 until the present.<sup>5</sup>

Consistent with section 85(5)(a) of FOIL, please transmit these records via email. To the extent that records are available in electronic format (ideally in an electronic spreadsheet or comma-separated format (Excel or CSV)), we request that they be provided in that format. If any costs are associated with the production of records in response to this request, please notify us before fulfilling the request.

Section 89(3)(a) of FOIL requires that your agency respond to this request within five business days of receiving it. If you require additional information to fulfill the request, please contact us by email or mail within that timeframe.

Should your agency deny any part of this request, please provide a detailed, written explanation of each denial, including a description of each withheld record and the specific basis or bases for the denial. In addition, please provide the contact information of the person to whom the NYCLU and ACLU should direct the appeal of your agency’s decision.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If the cost of responding will exceed \$100, please contact the NYCLU and ACLU for approval prior to completing the request. We are available to answer any questions you may have about this request, and will readily work with you

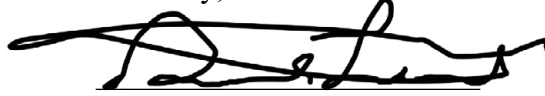
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<sup>4</sup> Including, but not limited to those uses of force identified in the Division of Criminal Justice Services database contained here: <https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/stats.htm>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cmyny.com/517/Police-Reform-Commission>.

to establish a process for fulfilling this request in an efficient and economical manner. Please direct any questions or correspondence to [dlambright@nyclu.org](mailto:dlambright@nyclu.org) and [jborchetta@aclu.org](mailto:jborchetta@aclu.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lambright", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel R. Lambright  
Special Counsel for Criminal Justice Litigation  
New York Civil Liberties Union  
125 Broad Street, 19th Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
(212) 607-3300  
[dlambright@nyclu.org](mailto:dlambright@nyclu.org)

Jenn Rolnick Borchetta  
Deputy Project Director on Policing,  
Criminal Law Reform Project  
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation  
125 Broad Street  
New York, NY 10004  
(914) 462-2363  
[jborchetta@aclu.org](mailto:jborchetta@aclu.org)

# **Appendix F**

## **(Phoenix, Arizona)**



May 21, 2025

*Via e-mail*

Phoenix Police Department  
Public Records and Services Unit  
PolicePublicRecords@Phoenix.gov  
1717 E Grant, Suite 100  
Phoenix, AZ 85034

### **REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RECORDS**

Dear Records Custodian:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona (together, "ACLU"), and Poder in Action, this letter serves as a request to examine and copy, or be furnished with copies, of public records pursuant to Arizona's Public Records Law, A.R.S. §§ 39-121 et seq., that are in possession of the Phoenix Police Department (PPD) or its employees.

We request data constituting, describing, or relating to the following records:

1. Use of Force Level 2 Reports for fifty (50) separate incidents that are closest in time to, and pre-date, April 30, 2025. See Use of Force – Reporting and Administrative Review (Operations Order 1.5.02).
2. Use of Force Level 3 Reports for fifty (50) separate incidents that are closest in time to, and pre-date, April 30, 2025.
3. For each Use of Force Report responsive to request Nos. 1, and 2 above, the corresponding (see Use of Force – Reporting and Administrative Review (Operations Order 1.5.02)):
  - a. Show of Force Report.
  - b. Final Policy Outcome Determination.
4. Documents that identify PPD's policies, procedures, or rules that are currently in effect related to (a) search and seizure; (b) use of force; and (c) racial discrimination, racial profiling, or biased law enforcement practices.

5. Documents that identify PPD's policies, procedures, or rules that are currently in effect for identifying and addressing possible violations of laws or PPD policies concerning (a) search and seizure; (b) use of force; and (c) racial discrimination, racial profiling, or biased law enforcement practices.
6. Documents that identify PPD's policies, procedures, or rules in effect immediately prior to June 13, 2024 related to (a) search and seizure; (b) use of force; and (c) racial discrimination, racial profiling, or biased law enforcement practices, to the extent different from those currently in effect.
7. Documents that identify the number of Use of Force Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 incidents for the period May 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025.
8. Arizona Traffic Ticket and Complaint Ticket Books and Field Based Reporting Citation forms for fifty (50) separate incidents that are closest in time to, and pre-date, April 30, 2025, including any corresponding (see Arizona Traffic Ticket and Complaint – Operations Order 6.2)):
  - a. Incident Report.
  - b. Field Interview.
  - c. Officer's notes.

We seek only non-privileged, non-protected, public data in accordance with A.R.S. § 39-121. We are not seeking personal identifying information of witnesses or victims, or other personal information protected from disclosure.

For the data requested above that your office does not produce, please provide an explanation, including the statutory or factual basis, for the determination that the requested material is exempt from disclosure. All divisible portions of otherwise exempt material must be produced. If your department does not keep the requested records, please advise that they do not exist. This request is ongoing, so should any requested materials that were initially considered exempt become non-exempt, please notify us.

Further, please provide the requested records in electronic form if it is feasible and economical to do so. E-mails transmitting less than 10 MB of data may be sent to [sanand@aclu.org](mailto:sanand@aclu.org), or arrangements can be made to supply you with a CD, flash drive, or email address capable of receiving larger quantities of data. If the responsive data is not available in electronic form, please send it by first class mail.

If there are a significant number of documents responsive to this request, we ask that you produce documents on a rolling basis, rather than waiting until all documents are assembled to produce them.

We do not seek records for any commercial purpose. However, we agree to reimburse you for reasonable costs associated with copying and sending the requested records, which are the only costs allowed under A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(1). If the costs will exceed \$100, please contact me for approval prior to completing the request.

Please comply with this request on or before June 11, 2025. *See* A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(1) and (E) (public records must be furnished “promptly”).

We are available to answer any questions or clarifications you may have about this request, and will readily work with you to establish a process for fulfilling this request in an efficient and economical way. Please contact Sapana Anand to discuss this request.

Thank you for your time and assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sapana Anand

Sapana Anand

Jenn Rolnick Borchetta

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION

(917) 634-6285

[sanand@aclu.org](mailto:sanand@aclu.org)

Jared G. Keenan

Lauren Beall

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF ARIZONA

(602) 650-1854

[jkeenan@acluaz.org](mailto:jkeenan@acluaz.org)

[lbeall@acluaz.org](mailto:lbeall@acluaz.org)

Isabel Garcia

ben Laughlin

PODER IN ACTION

# **Appendix G**

## **(Worcester, Massachusetts)**



Jenn Rolnick Borchetta  
Deputy Project Director on Policing  
Criminal Law Reform Project  
ACLU National Legal Department

May 21, 2025

***VIA OPEN RECORDS PORTAL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL***

Michael Vigneux  
City of Worcester, MA  
Records Access Officer  
Law Department  
455 Main Street, Room 303  
Worcester, MA 01608  
[VigneuxM@worcesterma.gov](mailto:VigneuxM@worcesterma.gov)

RE: Public Record Request: Worcester Police Department

Dear Records Access Officer Vigneux:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, we submit this request for public records under M.G.I. ch. 66, § 10 through this letter and the City of Worcester's Open Records Portal. This request seeks copies of public records concerning the Worcester Police Department's ("WPD") policies and practices related to the use of force and officer-committed sexual violence and harassment. Specifically, we request:

1. Use of Force Reports<sup>1</sup> for the fifty (50) separate incidents involving Level 3 uses of force closest in time to, and predating, April 30, 2025, and, for each, any corresponding completed supervisor report that reviews the use of force.
2. Use of Force Reports for the fifty (50) separate incidents involving Level 4 uses of force closest in time to, and predating, April 30, 2025, and, for each, any corresponding completed supervisor report that reviews the use of force.
3. WPD's policies, procedures, or rules currently in effect for identifying and addressing possible violations of laws or WPD policies concerning sexual contact by officers or officer-committed sexual violence or sexual harassment.

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<sup>1</sup> The term "Use of Force Report" means "an incident report containing a detailing of [ ] force" that must be "entered into the Police Server records management system," as required by WPD No. 400 section 10, or, if that policy has changed, any similar report required under current policy.

4. WPD's policies, procedures, or rules for officers regarding sexual contact in the course of enforcement activities related to sex trafficking, prostitution, or solicitation.
5. WPD's policies, procedures, or rules currently in effect for investigating reports of officer-committed sexual assault or sexual abuse, including, but not limited to, any requirement of criminal background checks of complainants.
6. For the period May 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025, the disaggregated, incident-level data for each arrest related to sex trafficking, prostitution, or solicitation, including:
  - a. The name(s) of the officer(s) involved in the incident;
  - b. The age of the individual arrested;
  - c. The race/ethnicity and/or national origin of the individual arrested;
  - d. The gender of the individual arrested;
  - e. The location of the incident;
  - f. The date of the incident; and
  - g. The top charge of the arrest.
7. For data provided in response to Request No. 6, records, manuals, keys, and/or legends that provide:
  - a. A description of the structure or format of the response;
  - b. A description of each field in the dataset provided; and
  - c. An explanation of all abbreviations or acronym.
8. For the period May 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025, all concluded internal investigation outcome reports concerning complaints against WPD members for alleged sexual contact, sexual violence, or sexual harassment.

To the extent that you contend that any of the requested records are not public records or are otherwise exempt from disclosure in response to this request, please take steps to ensure that such records are preserved and not modified, deleted, or destroyed pending our review of your contention and the resolution of any resulting dispute.

We ask that you waive any fees and copying costs, including pursuant to 950 C.M.R. 32.07. The ACLU is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the principles of liberty and equality. The ACLU distributes information both within and outside of Massachusetts. Gathering and disseminating information to the public is a critical and substantial component of the mission and work of the ACLU. The ACLU publishes reports and other written materials that are



disseminated to the public at no cost. The ACLU also disseminates information through their websites and regular posts on social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, X, and TikTok. Accordingly, disclosure of the above-referenced records serves the public interest, and not any commercial interests of the ACLU.

We are available to answer any questions you may have about this request and will readily work with you to establish a process for fulfilling this request in an efficient and economical manner. Responses should be sent to Jenn Rolnick Borchetta, at [jborchetta@aclu.org](mailto:jborchetta@aclu.org) or to the address indicated in the signature block below. Arrangements can also be made to supply you with a CD, flash drive, or email address capable of receiving larger quantities of data.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jenn R. Borchetta", written over a horizontal line.

Jenn Rolnick Borchetta  
Deputy Project Director on Policing  
Criminal law Reform Project  
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation  
125 Broad Street – 18th Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
[jborchetta@aclu.org](mailto:jborchetta@aclu.org)

Linda S. Morris  
Senior Staff Attorney  
Women's Rights Project  
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation  
125 Broad Street – 18th Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
[LindaM1@aclu.org](mailto:LindaM1@aclu.org)