

January 22, 2015

Custodian of Records City of Wellston, Missouri 1414 Evergreen Avenue Wellston, Missouri 63133

> By facsimile to (314) 553-8014 and Certified first class mail No. 7010 0290 0001 5129 8728

I am writing on behalf of the ACLU of Missouri, Jeffrey Mittman, and Sarah Rossi to follow-up on their request for copies of public records under the Sunshine Law. The request, a copy of which is attached, was mailed and delivered by facsimile to you on January 7, 2015.

To date, the City of Wellston has taken no action in response to the request. Thus, the City is in violation of the Sunshine Law. If litigation is necessary to force compliance with the law, then a civil penalty as well as an award of attorneys' fees may be entered against the City.

The purpose of this letter is to demand that immediate action be taken to meet the City's obligations under the Sunshine Law. Please provide a copy of all requested records to me at the address below no later than January 29, 2015. If you continue to ignore the request, then we will assume the City is knowingly and purposely violating the Sunshine Law and proceed accordingly.

Thank you for giving your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Anthony E. Rothert

Legal Director

Enclosure

**Exhibit** 

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January 7, 2015

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS
C/O Janice Trigg – Wellston City Administrator
1414 Evergreen Avenue
Wellston, MO 63133

Fax: 314-553-8014

Greenbaylum Walker – Wellston Chief of Police 1414 Evergreen Avenue Wellston, MO 63133

Fax: 314-553-8004



To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is a request under the Missouri Sunshine Law. Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 610 of the Missouri Revised Statutes, we request the following information:

- 1. Wellston Police Department reports: 10-4711, 11-3459, 13-3752, 14-1195, 14-1791 and all related documents including but not limited to affidavits, search warrants, probable cause statements, photos, videos, police statements and officer incident reports.
- 2. Disposition records for the Wellston Municipal Summonses: D059240, 1205081, 1205080
- 3. City of Wellston Council meeting minutes AND closed session minutes, audio recordings of closed and open council meetings, for any and all meetings that took place between September 1, 2014 and January 7, 2015.
- 4. Any and all city records relating to Terrance Dixon (subject in case 13SL-CR02971), including community service records and criminal charging documents, court records, etc.

If any or part of this request is denied, please send a letter listing the specific exemptions upon which you rely for each denial and provide the contact information for the official to whom we may appeal. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.023.4. This request must "be acted upon as soon as possible, but in no event later than the end of the third business day following the date the request is received." Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.023.3.

Because this records request is being submitted in the public interest and "is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operation or activities" of your department, we ask that you waive any fees or charge a substantially reduced fee pursuant to Mo.

American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri Foundation 454 Whittier Street · Saint Louis, Missouri 63108

Rev. Stat. § 610.026.1(1). However, should you decline to waive or reduce fees, proceed without further approval if the cost does not exceed \$50.00 and send a detailed invoice with the records. If the cost will exceed \$50.00, please inform us of the cost in advance.

Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. We appreciate your attention to this

matter.

Sincerely,

effe Mittman

Executive Director

Sarah Rossi

Director of Advocacy and Policy