August 12, 2014

Custodian of Records
Ferguson Police Department
222 South Florissant Road
Ferguson, Missouri 63135

By U.S. Mail and Facsimile to (314) 522-0429

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 that you provide a copy of the incident report for the shooting of Michael Brown on August 9, 2014.¹

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. 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,

Jeffrey A. Mittman
Executive Director

Mustafa Abdullah
Program Associate

¹ This request is for the incident report only, which is defined as “a record of a law enforcement agency consisting of the date, time, specific location, name of the victim and immediate facts and circumstances surrounding the initial report of a crime or incident, including any logs of reported crimes, accidents and complaints maintained by that agency.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.100.1(4). Unlike “investigative reports,” which may be closed until the investigation becomes inactive, “[a]ll incident reports and arrest reports shall be open records.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.100.2.