

NEW JERSEY GOVERNMENT RECORDS COUNCIL Administrative Complaint Disposition – Not a Valid OPRA Request

Brian Keith Bragg Complainant GRC Complaint No. 2016-310

v.

Mercer County Correctional Center Custodial Agency

Custodian of Record: Paul R. Adezio, Esq. **Request Received by Custodian:** N/A

GRC Complaint Received: December 9, 2016

Complaint Disposition: On November 28, 2016, the Complainant submitted a non-form written request to Lillian Nazzaro, Esq., at the Mercer County Correction Facility ("MCCF"), attaching a copy of a MCCF "Consent for Release of Information" form. Neither the letter nor the form cited to OPRA. The Complainant referenced the GRC in the letter; however, such a reference does not equate to invoking OPRA. Thus, the correspondence did not constitute a valid OPRA request. The GRC's authority is limited to adjudicating denial of access complaints based on valid OPRA requests. *See also* Bragg v. Mercer Cnty. Corr. Ctr., GRC Complaint No. 2015-396 (May 2016).

Applicable OPRA Provision: "A request for access to a government record shall be in writing and hand-delivered, mailed, transmitted electronically, or otherwise conveyed to the appropriate custodian." N.J.S.A. 47:1A- 5(g).

"The council shall make a determination as to whether the complaint is within its jurisdiction or frivolous or *without any reasonable factual basis.*" N.J.S.A. 47:1A-7(e) (emphasis added).

This is the final administrative determination in this matter. Any further review should be pursued in the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey within forty-five (45) days. Information about the appeals process can be obtained from the Appellate Division Clerk's Office, Hughes Justice Complex, 25 W. Market St. PO Box 006, Trenton, NJ 08625-0006.

Effective Date of Disposition: January 31, 2017

Prepared By: Frank F. Caruso

Communications Specialist/Resource Manager

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