



3421 NORTH CAUSEWAY BLVD., SUITE 900
METAIRIE, LA 70002
T (504) 831-4091
F (504) 837-1182
WWW.BLUEWILLIAMS.COM

WRITER'S DIRECT
T (504) 830-4926
F (504) 849-3048
E smauterer@bluewilliams.com
STEVEN M. MAUTERER | PARTNER

October 27, 2022

Robert Edwin Burns
SoundOffLA
4155 Essen Ln., Suite 284
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-2155

Re: Public Records Request to Grant Parish Sheriff's Office Dated October 20, 2022 and Received October 25, 2022

Dear Mr. Burns:

My Firm assists Sheriff Steven McCain, as Custodian of Records for the Grant Parish Sheriff's Office, regarding compliance with the Louisiana Public Records Act and the policies and procedures of his office. We have been provided with a copy of your October 20, 2022 correspondence which was received on October 25, 2022.

With respect to your request, under Louisiana law, the Custodian of Records may not release any information which is privileged, confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure by Louisiana or federal law. This would include, without limitation, the release of information which would constitute a violation of an individual's right to privacy as mandated by La. Const. Art. 1. § 5. (La. Const. 1974), such as certain personal information including, but not limited to, home addresses, personal telephone numbers, next of kin, social security numbers.

The Custodian of Records will perform a good faith and diligent search in an effort to identify the existence and availability of public records that may be responsive to your request as written. We will make every reasonable effort to timely respond. However, please be advised that due to the nature, breadth, and vague and ambiguous nature of your request, clarification will be required for some, or all of your requests, so that the Custodian can reach an accurate determination of whether the documents requested exist, they are public records not otherwise exempt, and/or are available. Based upon the foregoing, your request does not require a response within three (3) business days of its request. (R.S. 44:32(D) & 44:33). Additionally, state and federal regulations regarding the prevention and spread of COVID-19 have impacted staff availability and resources which may result in unintentional delay.

The Grant Parish Sheriff's Office, as a public entity is not required to bear the burden and expense of public record requests, (R.S. 44:32(A), (C) (1)(a), (2)), nor are they required to respond to requests which are unduly burdensome. For those requests to which the Custodian maintains records which are responsive, upon locating them, examining them, determining what portions are subject to redaction, we shall provide you with an estimated cost for providing you copies.

Robert Edwin Burns
SoundOffLA
October 27, 2022
Page 2

Pursuant to La. R.S. 44:32C(1)(a), the Custodian of Records will require payment of fees for copies in advance of production.

As I appreciate it, you are seeking to review and/or copy the following:

“Any and all documentation, to include, but not be limited to, arrest warrant(s), bond-related documentation, affidavits, etc., for Julia Amanda Willis. Any evidence of any arrests.”

“[T]he custodian of public records cannot be expected to produce records that it cannot identify.” *Hatcher v. Rouse*, 16-0666 (La. App. 4 Cir. 2/1/17), 211 So.3d 431 citing *All for Affordable Energy v. Frick*, 96 1763, p. 7 (La. App. 4 Cir. 5/28/97), 695 So.2d 1126, 1132. The Custodian of Records must object to the overly broad and ambiguous nature of this request and seeks further clarification, or simplification, of the scope of the request. As written, the Custodian of Records cannot be expected to guess as to what you might consider “bond-related documentation,” “affidavits,” “evidence of any arrests,” or what would be included, if anything, in “etc.”

We further note that with respect to your request there is no temporal component. Louisiana does not require the maintaining of public records beyond the three (3) year limitation. However, in certain instances, records are maintained beyond that date. Where temporal components were not provided it is assumed that some of the records you are requesting are beyond that three (3) year period, those records may not be available for that reason. It would be most helpful and would expedite the process of locating the extent of the records you have requested, and permit us to make a more rapid response, if you would add a temporal component to your request.

We look forward to receiving a more specific and clearly defined request so that the Custodian of Records can promptly identify the requested documents, examine them, determine what portions, if any, are subject to redaction and/or exemption, and thereafter provide you with an invoice for prepayment.

By providing this response to you, please be advised that the Custodian of Records has not waived any additional objection it has or may have, with respect to your request, its form, nature, demands or substance.

In the event after additional investigation, further response is required, or other action is taken in furtherance of this request, or any subsequent requests, the Custodian of Records reserves any and all rights granted by law, jurisprudence or Attorney General Opinion.

It is the policy of the Custodian of Records to undertake every reasonable effort to respond to public records requests as required by Louisiana law. However, if the information is not

Robert Edwin Burns
SoundOffLA
October 27, 2022
Page 3

required to disclosed pursuant to Louisiana law or federal law, the Custodian of Records will abide by that law.

Should you have any questions, you should direct your response, or further inquiries, if any, to me in writing, by U.S. Mail, facsimile, or email as provided above.

Thank you for your kind attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

BLUE WILLIAMS, L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mauterer', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steven M. Mauterer

SMM