



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
Police Officer Standards and Training Council
Connecticut Police Academy

GENERAL NOTICE 17-04

To: Chief Law Enforcement Officers
Training Officers
Protective Services
Resident Troopers

From: Thomas E. Flaherty
Police Training Academy Administrator

Date: November 22, 2017

Subject: **FOI Request Regarding all Certified Police Officers in Connecticut**

The Police Officer Standards and Training Council's Police Academy, a division of Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), received a request under the Freedom of Information Act for certain information about certified police officers, past and present (See attached). The information maintained by POST, and that we believe to be a public record includes; Officer's name, department, certification status and date of certification, where available. **Please note we are not releasing dates of birth, year of birth or POST ID numbers as the requestor had originally asked.** Following receipt of the records request, we inquired of each department whether any of its personnel were working undercover so we could remove those names. Since that inquiry, we have started receiving objections to the release of any information, citing two provisions of the Freedom of Information Act: 1-210(b)(2) (privacy of employees in the contents of personnel and similar files) and 1-210(b) (19) (risk of harm to any person). Since the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection is not the employer of the certified police officers and the state agency administering the safety provision requires that any risk of harm not be speculative and be described with particularity, DESPP is unlikely to prevail in withholding the records without the participation of the objecting police officers. Thus, we are prepared to delay release of these records so that persons objecting may submit to us further information about the risk of harm so that we can seek approval from the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to withhold information on the basis of a safety risk. Barring a favorable response from DAS on the 1-210(b) (19) exemption, it is our position that there does not exist a substantial basis upon which to withhold public disclosure of the requested information under the FOIA. If any agency whose police officers are affected by the disclosure of the requested information believes otherwise, they are encouraged to intervene in any pending complaint so as to ensure that their positions are heard and considered.

INVISIBLE INSTITUTE

Via: Email to thomase.flaherty@ct.gov
Attention: Thomas E. Flaherty
Police Academy Administrator
Police Officer Standards and Training Council
Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
258 Preston Avenue
Meriden, Connecticut 06450

October 23 2017

Dear Records Coordinator

This is a request under the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act

I request the following information, to the extent it is digitally maintained, regarding every individual who has ever been certified to be a police officer in Connecticut:

- First name
- Middle name or initial
- Last name
- Race
- Gender
- Birth year
- POST ID
- Certification type
- Date of certification
- Any employing agencies

The timeframe for this request is all responsive information dating back as far back as is digitally maintained by POST. I understand that some of this information may not be digitally maintained by POST; if this is the case, please contact me to discuss what is available.

Please provide this information in a standard spreadsheet format readable by a program such as Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets.

Please email the documents or files, and any communications, to foia@invisibleinstitute.com.

The Invisible Institute is an award-winning nonprofit journalistic production company based in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood. Our mission is to enhance the capacity of citizens to hold

public institutions accountable. This request is not for commercial benefit because this request is made by a member of the nonprofit news media whose principal purpose is to access and disseminate information regarding the general public's safety, welfare, and legal rights. We request that fees be waived or discounted for these reasons.

Thank you for your time and prompt attention to this matter. Please contact me should you have any questions related to this request.

Sam Stecklow
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