



Nathan Vasquez, Multnomah County District Attorney

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May 15, 2026

via email only

Alexis Hower
howeralexis@yahoo.com

Re: Petition of Alexis Hower seeking body-worn camera footage and other records from the Gresham Police Department

Dear Ms. Hower:

On April 28, 2026 you submitted a public records request to the Gresham Police Department (GPD) seeking police body camera footage, dash camera footage, and related records concerning a traffic stop Sgt. O'Black made of your vehicle on April 24, 2026. GPD responded that it did not have any dash camera footage, that it would provide you with the CAD incident report and citation upon payment of its costs for doing so, and that the BWC footage was exempt from disclosure.

On May 12, 2026, you provided us with the information necessary to open an appeal of this denial under ORS 192.422. I cannot order dash camera footage released because it does not exist. And, GPD has not denied you access to the CAD incident report and the citation; they are available to you subject to payment of GPD's costs, which is permitted by ORS 192.324(4).

As to the body camera footage, ORS 192.345(40) exempts from disclosure "[a]udio or video recordings, whether digital or analog, resulting from a law enforcement officer's operation of a video camera worn upon the officer's person that records the officer's interactions with members of the public while the officer is on duty." The video you want is, self-evidently, within the scope of this exemption.

Since this exemption appears in ORS 192.345, I must next assess whether, despite the facial applicability of the exemption, "the public interest requires disclosure in the particular instance." A public interest exists when release of the records has its greatest utility "to the community or society as a whole." *In Defense of Animals v. OHSU*, 199 Or App 160, 189 (2005). You stated to GPD in your request: "The requested body-worn camera footage is in the public interest because it helps accurately show what happened during the incident, documents the police response, and provides transparency regarding the events that occurred. The footage may help verify facts, clarify details, and ensure an accurate record of the situation."

A person seeking records of their own interaction with law enforcement will not be able to demonstrate a public interest absent unusual facts not present here. *Petition of Jacoby*, MCDA PRO 26-05 (2026) ("a private interest in disclosure accompanied by blanket statements about transparency and accountability does not equate to the type of public interest intended by the legislature"); *Petition of Brown*, MCDA PRO 25-32 (2025) (body camera footage of own traffic

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stop not a public interest); *Petition of Clement*, MCDA PRO 24-58 (2024) (body camera footage sought to further a private claim is not a public interest); ATTORNEY GENERAL'S PUBLIC RECORDS AND MEETINGS MANUAL (2024) at 19 (a requester seeking records relating to the requester, absent a broader public interest, does not satisfy the public interest standard).

Having reviewed all the materials in this case, I do not see a basis to distinguish your petition from those cited above.

ORDER

Accordingly, the petition is denied.

Regards,

NATHAN VASQUEZ
District Attorney
Multnomah County, Oregon

By. 

Adam Gibbs
General Counsel

Cc: sherisa davis-larry, City of Gresham

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