



Nathan Vasquez, Multnomah County District Attorney

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September 14, 2026

via email only

Geonni Ordelli
djhookerface@gmail.com

Re: Petition of Geonni Ordelli seeking security camera footage from the Multnomah County Library

Dear Geonni Ordelli:

On August 28, 2026, you submitted a public records request to the Multnomah County Library for security camera footage of the east side of the North Portland Library, 512 N. Killingsworth Street, between 3:45 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on July 30, 2026. The County identified responsive footage from three cameras, but withheld it under ORS 192.345(23).

You petitioned this office on September 4, 2026, as permitted by ORS 192.415 and ORS 192.422, arguing that the public interest requires disclosure because the footage captures a public sidewalk and parking area where you believe your animal was taken on July 30, an event the Portland Police Bureau is investigating.¹ The County provided the three recordings for my review under ORS 192.422(2) and argues that the footage is exempt from disclosure because it reveals the field of vision, resolution, and effective range of the cameras protecting a public building.

ORS 192.345(23), the authority relied on by the County, allows a public body to withhold from disclosure “[r]ecords or information that would reveal or otherwise identify security measures, or weaknesses or potential weaknesses in security measures, taken or recommended to be taken to protect: (a) An individual; (b) Buildings or other property[.]”

The recordings here are continuous footage from three fixed cameras on the exterior of a public library. This office has held that footage of this kind falls within the exemption even when the camera itself is in plain view, because the footage discloses what the camera sees and what it does not: its field of vision, its resolution, and its effective range. *Petition of Cashman*, MCDA PRO 23-158 (2023) (still frames from the Portland City Hall security system exempt because disclosure “would reveal the range, resolution, and coverage, and location of a security measure taken to protect a building”). The Attorney General has reached the same conclusion for courthouse and correctional-facility footage. *Petition of Oshrin*, Att’y Gen. PRO (November 27, 2024) (courthouse footage exempt where disclosure “would reveal certain security measures and vulnerabilities and thereby compromise the court’s ability to protect persons and property”); *Petition of Gustafson*, Att’y Gen. PRO (February 26, 2026) (same, for correctional-facility footage). The requested footage is covered by ORS 192.345(23).

¹ Your petition also asked this office to order the County to preserve the footage, or to stay its deletion, while the petition was pending. As I explained to you on September 8, the public records law gives this office no authority to issue an order of that kind.

If there is a strong public interest in a particular case, footage covered by ORS 192.345(23) may still be subject to release. That standard is objective: it asks what disclosure of the record would do for the public, not what it would do for the person who requested it. A public interest is present when “the furnishing of the record has utility—indeed, its greatest utility—to the community or society as a whole.” *In Defense of Animals v. OHSU*, 199 Or App 160, 189 (2005).

I do not doubt the personal urgency behind your inquiry. Your animal has been missing since July 30, and you believe this footage will provide a clue to the circumstances of the loss. The question the statute asks (as applied to this case) is not whether disclosure would help you, but whether the public would be served by a rule under which anyone may obtain hours of continuous footage showing who came and went from a public library on a given afternoon. It would not.

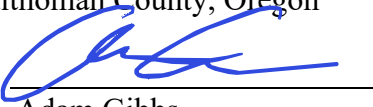
The public records law is not the only route to this footage, and for investigation of a potential crime it is not the intended one. The County states that the recordings have been preserved and provided to the Portland Police Bureau, which is the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction to investigate a report of crime at the North Portland Library.

ORDER

Accordingly, the petition is denied.

Regards,

NATHAN VASQUEZ
District Attorney
Multnomah County, Oregon

By: 

Adam Gibbs
General Counsel

cc: Katherine Thomas, Senior Assistant County Attorney, Multnomah County