



Nathan Vasquez, Multnomah County District Attorney

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September 28, 2026

via email only

Yudel Labarca Rodriguez
labarka123@gmail.com

Re: Petition of Yudel Rodriguez seeking body camera footage from the City of Portland

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

You submitted a request to this office on September 21, 2026, in which you ask that we order the City of Portland to release certain police body camera footage related to the towing of your vehicle on August 31, 2026.

The City denied your request, citing ORS 192.345(40), the public records exemption for police body camera recordings. ORS 192.345(40) conditionally exempts from disclosure under the public records law, “[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.”

It is not in reasonable dispute that the record you seek fits within this description. As a result, the exemption applies unless a public interest exists that outweighs the legislatively expressed interest in confidentiality for body camera footage. 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).

This office repeatedly concluded that a person seeking the recording of their own interaction with law enforcement does not establish a public interest sufficient to override ORS 192.345(40). *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 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).

You state in your appeal, “This matter raises a significant concern regarding how Portland police exercise towing authority when they are aware a vehicle serves as an individual’s primary shelter. The requested footage would provide an objective record of the interaction, showing what options were considered, what policies were followed, and how the decision was made.”

Blanket statements about transparency and accountability are not what the legislature intended in this analysis. The purpose of the public records law as a whole is transparency and accountability, but the legislature created specific exemptions from that policy in ORS 192.345 and ORS 192.355. ORS 192.345 provides that its exemptions apply unless “the public interest

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requires disclosure in the particular instance.” A generalized interest in police transparency is insufficient to override a legislatively created exception to the public records law. *Petition of Scholten*, MCDA PRO 25-82 (2025); ATTORNEY GENERAL’S PUBLIC RECORDS AND MEETINGS MANUAL (2024) at 19 (an allegation that the public body has treated the requestor oppressively does not satisfy the public interest standard).

On the record in front of me, the City of Portland did not err in its application of the law to your public records request.

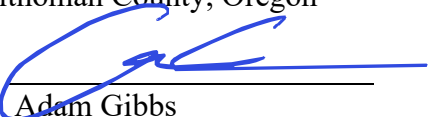
ORDER

Accordingly, the petition is denied.

Regards,

NATHAN VASQUEZ
District Attorney
Multnomah County, Oregon

By:



Adam Gibbs
General Counsel

Cc: Trevor Byrd, City of Portland

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