



Nathan Vasquez, Multnomah County District Attorney

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October 26, 2026

via email only

EWU Media LLC
records@ewumedia.com

Re: Petition of EWU Media LLC seeking body-worn camera footage from the City of Portland

Dear EWU Media:

On September 15, 2026, you submitted a public records request to the City of Portland for “[a]ll body-worn camera footage related to” the October 17, 2024, shooting at the Islamic School of Portland, including footage “from all responding officers, assisting officers, supervisors, transport officers, detectives, and any other personnel whose body-worn cameras captured any portion of the incident, detention, arrest, investigation, transport, or related interactions.” The City denied the request on October 8, 2026, citing ORS 192.345(40). It characterized the request as one seeking footage “in furtherance of either an internal investigation or private litigation.”

You petitioned this office on October 13, 2026, as permitted by ORS 192.422. You argue that the orders the City cited involved litigants and insurers, not a news organization, and you identify narrower categories of footage: officers’ initial response and threat assessment, school-area security, victim assistance, and the defendant’s detention or arrest. The City acknowledges that it answered with “a form denial using template language that does not fit this case.”

This case is indistinguishable from the decision in *Petition of EWU Media*, MCDA PRO 26-80 (2026): the request the City received, for every recording from every officer with any role in the case, is not “reasonably tailored to include only that material for which a public interest requires disclosure.” ORS 192.345(40)(b).

ORS 192.345(40)(b) places on the requester, who knows what public interest it is asserting, the obligation to describe at least by category the footage that interest reaches. Your request sought the footage of every officer whose camera captured any part of the response, the investigation, or what followed, and it drew no distinctions among them.

Police interact with members of the public at their most vulnerable. The legislature recognized this with its enactment of ORS 192.345(40). *Petition of EWU Media*, Att’y Gen. PRO (Oct. 20, 2026) (“the exemption was intended principally to protect the privacy interests of members of the public captured on bodycamera recordings.”) The public body must balance the extent to which those interests are implicated against the benefit to the public of providing the footage to the particular requester seeking it. This office may review the public body’s weighing of those interests under ORS 192.415; it may not consider them in the absence of a request that presented them to the public body in the first place.

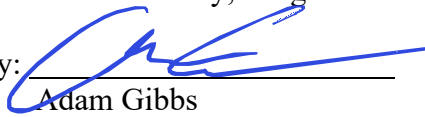
The narrowing you describe in your petition was not part of your request. ORS 192.345(40)(b) governs “[a] *request* for disclosure,” that is, the request made to the public body. The seriousness of this event does not change that analysis. In most public records matters involving the weighing of the public interest, a party can raise new public interest arguments on appeal (though doing so is inefficient). ORS 192.345(40)(b) is unusual in that it imposes a specific requirement on the request itself. As in 26-80, the request in this case does not satisfy that standard.

ORDER

Accordingly, the petition is denied.

Regards,

NATHAN VASQUEZ
District Attorney
Multnomah County, Oregon

By: 

Adam Gibbs
General Counsel

cc: Anika Bent-Albert, Senior Deputy City Attorney, City of Portland

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