

Good afternoon,

On November 15, I submitted a Freedom of Information request to the Manchester Police Department seeking "license plate reader data for the past 30 days." On November 20, I received a response from the department denying the request and citing exemption C.G.S. 1-210(b)(3), records which are compiled in connection with the detection or investigation of a crime. (Copies of my request and Manchester PD's response are attached.)

As the data I am seeking is collected passively and is not generally being collected in the investigation of any crime, I do not believe this exemption permits the Manchester Police Department to issue a blanket denial to my request.

Just this year, the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that police departments must show that there is more than a theoretical possibility of some future prosecution to withhold records under C.G.S. 1-210(b)(3)(D), exempting "information to be used in a prospective law enforcement action if prejudicial to such action." Manchester PD has not cited any information establishing that release of this data would prejudice a future prosecution, nor has it cited any basis upon which any other provision of C.G.S. 1-210(b)(3) would apply to my request.

In addition, I have submitted identical requests to other police departments in the state and, in several cases, have received the requested license plate reader data. I believe this demonstrates Manchester PD is unjustified in citing this exemption.

I am a journalist with *Inside Investigator* and seek this information in connection with my ongoing reporting on the activity of police in Connecticut. Because disclosure of this information is in the public interest, I ask the Freedom of Information Commission to compel the Manchester PD to provide the requested data.

Thank you,

Katherine Revello