



## **Montana Public Safety Officer Standards & Training Council**

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October 27, 2023

Sam Stecklow  
Invisible Institute

Dear Mr. Stecklow:

In response to your October 2, 2023, information request to the Montana POST Council, please see the attached .csv files. These files are spreadsheets containing the dates of peace officer basic certification for peace officers who have been granted equivalency by the Montana POST Council. Each officer is identified by a unique, four-digit number.

Because of the Right to Privacy guaranteed to all Montanans in Article II, Section 10 of the Montana Constitution, the Montana POST Council has voted to only produce an automatically generated unique identifying number for officers in its system, therefore, officer names have been redacted. The Council's position represents the balancing of the public's right to know against the individual officers' right to privacy, including the safety risk to undercover officers.

Montana POST does not electronically track the originating state of equivalency officers. Additionally, we did not begin electronically tracking equivalency until 2017. Under § 2-6-1006(4), MCA, the Council is not required to produce "altered" or "customized" data. Because this information is not stored electronically, it will not be produced in electronic form as doing so would be exceedingly time consuming. In order to determine the originating state of equivalency officers or officers who were granted equivalency prior to 2017, POST staff would be required to physically pull and review thousands to tens of thousands of officer files. Given that the POST Council currently has only four full-time staff, this would essentially shut down all other business of the Montana POST Council for a significant amount of time.

The attached spreadsheets contain export information from the certification tables for POST's active and archived records. Please note that officers' records remain in the active records for one year after they have become inactive, meaning that some officers who show up in the "active" files may not be actively working today.

Sincerely,

/s/ Katrina Bolger

Katrina Bolger, Paralegal/Investigator  
Montana POST Council