

May 24, 2024

Via E-Mail

161036-03114096@requests.muckrock.com

Evan L. Rees
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 161036
263 Huntington Ave
Boston, MA 02115

Re: City of Palos Verdes Estates Public Records Act Request Received
March 24, 2024 – Update

Dear Mr. Rees:

You issued a public records request for various documents on March 24, 2024 to the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department. Please note that the California Public Records Act exempts certain categories of records, in particular records of local police investigations and intelligence information or security procedures pursuant to Gov. Code § 7923.600. The Department’s responses to your requests, and its claims of exemptions, are below in red text:

1. Internal memoranda, directives, and communications discussing the planning, execution, and objectives of such covert operations, including any references to MK Ultra or similar programs. Does not exist.

2. Operational plans, strategies, and guidelines governing the conduct of surveillance and intelligence-gathering activities, including any involvement or coordination with community policing initiatives. Destroyed immediately after operations for confidentiality and public safety. Gov. Code § 7923.600.

3. Records of surveillance operations, including logs, reports, and warrants obtained for monitoring targeted individuals or groups, including any watch lists or databases used for tracking. Sharing this information would compromise investigations and is expressly exempt by the CPRA. Gov. Code § 7923.600.

4. Intelligence reports, assessments, and analyses generated as a result of surveillance and infiltration efforts, including any assessments related to private contractors involved in intelligence activities. Does not exist.

5. Training materials, manuals, and protocols used to educate personnel involved in covert operations, including any materials related to community alerts or coordination with neighborhood watch groups. Does not exist.

6. Budgetary documents related to the funding and allocation of resources for covert surveillance and intelligence activities. The City Purchased GPS tracking devices and services from US FleetTracking. The last payment was made in October 2022, for three (3) devices, two devices are still active. Please see attached PDF.

7. Legal opinions, guidance, and interpretations concerning the legality and oversight of covert programs. The Department does not possess these documents. None of this would come from the Department but rather from courses or training instructors. The Department does not employ such instructors. This type of training is generally offered by outside entities that are not employed by the Department, and the external training entity would be in possession of training materials.

8. After-action reports, evaluations, and assessments conducted to review the effectiveness and impact of covert operations. Does not exist.

Because the City will not provide the exempt information described above, the CPRA requires the City to provide a written response when a records request is denied, either in whole or in part. (Gov. Code § 7922.540(a).)  The CPRA also requires that notification of denial of any request for records must include the names and titles or positions of each person responsible for the denial. (Gov. Code § 7922.540(b).)  With the name and title provided below, this letter fulfills both of the aforementioned legal requirements.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding the information provided in this letter.

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|  | Sincerely,Krystle AccettaLead Service OfficerPalos Verdes Estates Police Department |