



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

## JEFF A. SIEGEL, SHERIFF

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER 26861 CR 26, ELKHART, IN 46517  
PHONE: 574.891.2300 | ELKHARTCOUNTYSHERIFF.COM

September 16, 2022

Samuel Sinyangwe  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 132851  
263 Huntington Ave  
Boston, MA 02115

**Re: Public Records Request**

Dear Mr. Sinyangwe,

On September 11, 2022, I received a public records request from you pertaining to our agency use of force reports for 2021. Your request was for the following:

“Pursuant to the Indiana Access to Public Records Act, I hereby request the following records:

1. the total number of use of force incidents, separated by type of force and year used in 2021 (for example, information that specifies the number of taser incidents in 2021, baton incidents in 2021, etc.). Please include as part of this a breakdown of how many use of force incidents in each year were related to law enforcement operations and how many were related to correctional/custodial operations.
2. the total number of civilian complaints alleging any form of law enforcement misconduct that were reported and the total number sustained in 2021.
3. the total number of civilian complaints alleging law enforcement use of excessive force that were reported and the total number sustained in 2021.
4. the total number of civilian complaints alleging biased policing or racial profiling that were reported and the total number sustained in 2021.
5. the total number of civilian complaints alleging criminal conduct that were reported and the total number sustained in 2021.
6. the total number of officer involved shootings in 2021, both fatal and non-fatal.”

The Elkhart County Sheriff's Office is committed to following Indiana's Access to Public Records Act (APRA) that is outlined in I.C. 5-14-3. According to I.C. 5-14-3-3, any person may inspect and copy the public records of any public agency during the regular business hours of the agency except as provided in I.C. 5-14-3-4. A request for inspection or copying must identify with reasonable particularity the record being requested and be at the discretion of the agency in writing on or in a form provided by the agency.

In review of your request for public records, the Elkhart County Sheriff's Office will need additional time to review materials related to your request. We will plan a response within 14 days from the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

Michael Culp, Captain  
MC:jp

