

**Baltimore Police Department  
Office of Legal Affairs**

**MARYLAND PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT— 24-0233  
REQUEST FOR WAIVER/REDUCTION REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF  
FEES OF FEES**

Lynne Peskoe-Yang

Petitioner's Name (print)

172 Rolling Ridge Rd

Street Address

Apartment No

Amherst

MA

01002

914

907-1151

City

State

Zip Code

Area Code

Phone Number

To assess your request for a fee waiver, kindly furnish additional details on how the waiver from the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) would serve the public interest. Please elaborate on the following points:

1. Outline any potential public benefits arising from the disclosure of the requested records.

The routine use of riot control agents poses a threat to public safety as well as to the safety of LEOs. These chemicals are inherently dangerous and complete training is crucial. Insufficient or poorly explained safety data from manufacturers can pose unnecessary dangers to officers, civilians, and the environment.

2. Explain how the records could contribute to the understanding of matters under public scrutiny or controversy.

A wave of new research on the long-term effects of riot control agents has brought the issue to public attention. Recent papers highlight the chronic nature of the effects of smoke irritants on the human respiratory system<sup>1</sup> and the lasting psychological trauma of olfactory agent exposure<sup>2</sup>. The publication of training materials may encourage departments to review safety policies.

3. Illustrate how the records would provide insight into the agency's fulfillment of its public duties.

The scientific understanding of riot control agents' effect on nearby life forms has changed dramatically over just the past three years. In order to protect civilians, officers, and the environment from undue harm, it is essential that LEOs have a complete and up-to-date understanding of the materials in their care.

1. de Lagarde, Violaine Martin, Laurence Chevalier, Clémence Méausoone, Fabrice Cazier, Dorothée Dewaele, Francine Cazier-Dennin, Marion Janona et al. "Acute and repeated exposures of normal human bronchial epithelial (NHBE) cells culture to particles from a coloured pyrotechnic smoke." *Environmental Toxicology and Pharmacology* 105 (2024): 104327.

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2. Tremblay, Jean-Thomas, Hsuan L. Hsu, and Aleesa Cohene. "Skunk: Olfactory Violence and Morbid Speculation." *SEE* 2018 (2023): 75.

4. Clarify whether there is a commercial interest tied to the sought-after records.

There is no commercial interest related to these records.

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5. Detail how the information will be disseminated to the public, including the reach and circulation of the information.

Reach and circulation will depend on which publication picks up the story, if any. Past work by this author has been circulated by national outlets, both in digital and physical forms.

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6. Include any additional pertinent information that you believe the BPD should take into account when evaluating the public interest in granting the fee waiver.

Transparency around riot control agents is a safety issue that touches all involved in policing in any capacity. Manufacturers have an incentive to downplay the dangers of their products and exaggerate their efficacy. By sharing RCA materials, LEAs can help demand accountability from them.

7. Provide information on your or your organization's financial capacity to cover the associated fees.

As a freelance journalist, the requester cannot count on any organization in particular to cover associated fees at this early stage. Once the story is accepted by a publication, partial coverage of remaining fees is possible but not guaranteed.

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Signature:

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