



FINAL DETERMINATION

DATE ISSUED AND MAILED: July 7, 2026

IN RE: *Devin Maresca v. New Castle City*, OOR Dkt. AP 2026-2243

On May 1, 2026, Devin Maresca (“Requester”) submitted a request (“Request”) to the City of New Castle (“City”) pursuant to the Right-to-Know Law (“RTKL”), 65 P.S. §§ 67.101 *et seq.* The City did not respond after invoking an extension of time to respond, and the Request was, therefore, deemed denied on June 8, 2026. 65 P.S. § 67.902(b)(2). On June 9, 2026, the Requester filed an appeal with the Office of Open Records (“OOR”).

Local agencies have the burden of proving that records are exempt from access. 65 P.S. § 67.708(a)(1). Here, the City did not comply with the RTKL by timely responding to the Request, nor did the City participate on appeal by submitting legal argument or evidence in support of withholding records. Accordingly, the City did not meet its burden of proof under the RTKL. 65 P.S. § 67.305.

For this reason, the appeal is **granted**, and the City is required to provide the requested records to the Requester within thirty days, or, in the alternative, a sworn affidavit or a statement made under the penalty of perjury demonstrating that the records do not exist. Within thirty days of the mailing date of this Final Determination, either party may appeal or petition for review with the Lawrence County Court of Common Pleas. 65 P.S. § 67.1302(a). All parties must be served with notice of the appeal. The OOR also shall be served notice and have an opportunity to respond according to court rules as per 65 P.S. § 67.1303, but as the quasi-judicial tribunal adjudicating this matter, the OOR is not a proper party to any appeal and should not be named as a party.¹ All documents or communications following the issuance of this Final Determination shall be sent to oor-postfd@pa.gov. This Final Determination shall be placed on the website at: <http://openrecords.pa.gov>.

Issued by:

/s/ Josh Macel

JOSH MACEL
APPEALS OFFICER

Sent via Appeals Portal to: Devin Maresca; Christopher Frye (AORO)

¹ *Padgett v. Pa. State Police*, 73 A.3d 644, 648 n.5 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2013).