



FINAL DETERMINATION

DATE ISSUED AND MAILED: August 31, 2026

IN RE: *Cris Ann Noel v West Goshen Township Police Department*, OOR Dkt. AP 2026-3040

On June 16, 2026, Cris Ann Noel (“Requester”) submitted a request (“Request”) to the West Goshen Township Police Department (“Department”) pursuant to the Right-to-Know Law (“RTKL”), 65 P.S. §§ 67.101 *et seq.* seeking the security access log, audit trail, system history report, or any equivalent record maintained by Department’s records management system for a specified police incident number. On July 23, 2026, following a thirty-day extension during which to respond, 65 P.S. § 67.902(b), the Department granted the Request in part and provided the Requester with responsive records, subject to redaction on the basis of criminal investigative records. 65 P.S. § 67.708(b)(16).¹ On July 27, 2026, the Requester filed an appeal with the Office of Open Records (“OOR”).

The Department is a local law enforcement agency, and the Request seeks records which were redacted solely on the basis of containing information relating to a criminal investigation of the Department. The evidence submitted by the Department states that the redactions to the responsive records are the names of complainants, victims and witnesses in relation to a criminal investigation. *See Carroll Attestation ¶ 5.* The OOR does not have jurisdiction to hear appeals related to criminal investigative records held by local law enforcement agencies. *See* 65 P.S. § 67.503(d)(2). Instead, appeals involving records alleged to be criminal investigative records held by a local law enforcement agency are to be heard by an appeals officer designated by the local district attorney. *See id.*

For this reason, the appeal is **dismissed for lack of jurisdiction**, and the Department is not required to take any further action as it relates to this appeal. Within thirty days of the mailing date of this Final Determination, either party may appeal or petition for review with the Chester 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.² 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/ Catherine R. Hecker

CATHERINE R. HECKER
APPEALS OFFICER

Sent to: Cris Ann Noel; Chief Michael Carroll

¹ The Department’s Final Response informed the Requester that the Requester could appeal the denial as to criminal investigative records to the appeals officer appointed by the Chester County District Attorney’s Office.

² *Padgett v. Pa. State Police*, 73 A.3d 644, 648 n.5 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2013).