



FINAL DETERMINATION

DATE ISSUED AND MAILED: October 7, 2026

IN RE: *Laura Webster v. Allegheny County*, OOR Dkt. AP 2026-4102

Upon review of the appeal filed with the Office of Open Records (“OOR”) to the above-referenced docket number, as well as the parties’ submissions, the appeal is **DENIED** because:

The records are exempt from disclosure. Section 708(b)(18) of the Right-to-Know Law exempts from disclosure “[r]ecords or parts of records, except time response logs, pertaining to audio recordings, telephone or radio transmissions received by emergency dispatch personnel, including 911 recordings.” 65 P.S. § 67.708(b)(18)(i). Here, the Request seeks the 911 recording and documents associated with a specific call.¹ On October 6, 2026, Allegheny County (“County”) submitted an affidavit, made under the penalty of perjury, from Carol Janssen (“Janssen Affidavit”), the Manager of Professional Development for the County’s Department of Emergency Services (“Department”), who is responsible for reviewing RTKL requests directed to the Department and coordinating with the County’s Open Records Officer regarding the same. The Janssen Affidavit affirms that, in addition to identifying and providing responsive time response log records to the County’s Open Records Officer for release to the Requester, the Department and, thus, the County, have not determined that the public interest in disclosing the 911 call recording or transcript outweighs nondisclosure. Webster Affidavit, ¶¶ 1-4. Therefore, based upon this evidence and the plain language of the Request itself, the County has proven that the 911 call recording and any transcript thereof are exempt from disclosure. 65 P.S. § 67.708(a)(1); *see also Pa. Game Comm’n v. Fennell*, 148 A.3d 101 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2016) (holding that the OOR must consider uncontradicted statements contained in the appeal as evidence).

For this reason, the County is not required to take any further action. Within thirty days of the mailing date of this Final Determination, either party may appeal or petition for review with the Allegheny 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. 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/ Joshua T. Young

JOSHUA T. YOUNG, ESQ.
SENIOR DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

Sent via OOR e-file portal to: Laura Webster; Maggie Shiels, Esq.; Jessica Garofolo, AORO

¹ On her appeal form, the Requester limits the appeal to the 911 recording or a transcript thereof.