



FINAL DETERMINATION

IN THE MATTER OF	:
	:
EVAN ROBERT WOOD,	:
Requester	:
	:
v.	: Docket No: AP 2026-4335
	:
PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE,	:
Respondent	:
	:

On August 24, 2026, Evan Robert Wood (“Requester”) submitted a request (“Request”) to the Pennsylvania State Police (“PSP”) pursuant to the Right-to-Know Law (“RTKL”), 65 P.S. §§ 67.101 *et seq.*, seeking external and interagency communications relating to the Requester’s employment applications with the PSP from February 1, 2025, through August 20, 2026.

On September 30, 2026, following an extension of time to respond, 65 P.S. § 67.902, the PSP denied the Request as insufficiently specific.

On October 5, 2026, the Requester filed an appeal with the Office of Open Records (“OOR”), challenging the denials and stating grounds for disclosure. The OOR invited both parties to supplement the record and directed the PSP to notify the OOR if any third parties have a direct interest in this appeal. 65 P.S. § 67.1101(c).

On October 27, 2026, the PSP submitted its position statement, stating that in preparation for the appeal, the PSP was able to identify responsive records to the Request, however, those

records are exempt as relating to noncriminal investigations under Section 708(b)(17) of the RTKL, 65 P.S. §67.708(b)(17), exempt as related to internal predecisional deliberations under Section 708(b)(10) of the RTKL, 65 P.S. § 67.708(b)(10)(i)(A), and exempt as employment application materials of an individual not hired by the agency under Section 708(b)(7)(iv) of the RTKL. 65 P.S. § 67.708(b)(7)(iv). The PSP's position was supported by the verification of William Rozier ("Rozier Verification"), Agency Open Records Officer ("AORO").

Based upon my review of the appeal and evidence, I make the following conclusions of law and findings of fact:

- Upon receipt of the Request, due to the lack of specific individual identifiers of potentially responsive records, the Request was forwarded to the following departments: PSP Human Resources (including Officer Placement Section); the PSP Bureau of Research and Development; the PSP Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement; the PSP Office of Equality and Inclusion; the PSP Bureau of Criminal Investigation; the PSP Office of the Chief Counsel; and the PSP Bureau of Training and Education. Rozier Verification, ¶7. The only entities who had responsive records to Items 1 through 4 of the Request were the PSP Human Resources and the PSP Office of Equality and Inclusion. *Id.*
- The PSP properly withheld responsive records to Items 1 through 4 of the Request. The Rozier Verification states that responsive records are contained in the Human Resources Employment Application file of the Requester as the result of a noncriminal background investigation conducted by the PSP in order to determine the Requester's eligibility for employment. Rozier Verification, ¶9. As noncriminal

investigation records, these are exempt under Section 708(b)(17) of the RTKL. *Id.* 65 P.S. § 67.708(b)(17).

- The responsive records to Items 1 through 4 of the Request are also exempt under Section 708(b)(7)(iv) of the RTKL as records relating to an application of an individual who is not hired by the agency. Rozier Verification, ¶9. 65 P.S. § 67.708(b)(7)(iv).
- The responsive records to Items 1 through 4 of the Request are also exempt under Section 708(b)(10)(i)(A) as they document communications made between the PSP and Office of Administration prior to and regarding the PSP's decision to disqualify the Requester's application from consideration. Rozier Verification, ¶10. 65 P.S. §67.708(b)(10)(i)(A).

For the foregoing reasons, the appeal is **denied** and the PSP is not required to take any further action. This Final Determination is binding on all parties. Within thirty days of the mailing date of this Final Determination, any party may appeal or petition for review to the Commonwealth Court. 65 P.S. § 67.1301(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>.

FINAL DETERMINATION ISSUED AND MAILED: October 29, 2026

/s/ Meryl M. Peterman

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

MERYL M. PETERMAN, ESQ.
APPEALS OFFICER

Sent via OOR E-file appeal portal to:

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