Pennsylvania
Office of Open Records

Pennsylvania Office of Open Records
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FINAL DETERMINATION

DATE ISSUED AND MAILED: November 5, 2026

IN RE: *John Bellocchio v. West Hills Regional Police Department*, OOR Dkt. AP 2026-4871

Upon review of the appeal filed with the Office of Open Records ("OOR") to the above-referenced docket number, as well as the Requester's submission,[1] it is determined that the appeal is **DISMISSED** because:

The appeal is premature. The appeal states that the Request was filed on October 16, 2026 and deemed denied on October 23, 2026. *See* 65 P.S. § 67.901. However, on October 22, 2026, the Department timely invoked a thirty-day extension, as permitted under 65 P.S. § 67.902(b). *See* Department's October 22, 2026 extension letter. Under the extension, the Department has five business days, followed by thirty calendar days, from October 16, 2026 to respond to the Request. 65 P.S. § 67.902(b)(1)-(2). As a result, the Department has until November 23, 2026 to respond to the Request. The appeal was submitted on October 28, 2026; thus, the Requester did not allow sufficient time before filing the appeal. The Requester is not prohibited from filing a new appeal to the OOR of any denial or deemed denial stemming from the Request, pursuant to the requirements of 65 P.S. § 67.1101(a)(1).

For this reason, the Department 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 Cambria 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/ Lyle Hartranft

LYLE HARTRANFT, ESQ.
APPEALS OFFICER

Sent via OOR Portal to: John Bellocchio; Judith Fetcko, AORO

[1] The Requester provided the OOR a copy of the West Hills Regional Police Department's ("Department") thirty-day extension notice. As the Department's extension notice provided reasons for review, it meets the requirements of 65 P.S. § 67.902(b).
[2] *Padgett v. Pa. State Police*, 73 A.3d 644, 648 n.5 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2013).