

JONATHAN L. SEGAL (State Bar No. 264238)
jonathansegal@dwt.com
RACHEL R. GOLDBERG (State Bar No. 308852)
rachelgoldberg@dwt.com
ALEXANDRA CADENA (State Bar No. 352442)
alexcadena@dwt.com
DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE LLP
350 South Grand Avenue, 27th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90071
Telephone: (213) 633-6800
Fax: (213) 633-6899

SHAYLA MYERS (State Bar No. 264054)
Smyers@lafla.org
ANNA HALES (State Bar No. 341674)
Ahales@lafla.org
LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES
1550 W. 8th St.
Los Angeles, California 90013
Telephone: (213) 640-3983
Fax: (213) 640-3988

Attorneys for Petitioner
LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LOS
ANGELES,

Plaintiff and Petitioner,

vs.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES and LOS
ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION,

Defendants and Respondents.

Case No. **24STCP04094**

**VERIFIED PETITION FOR WRIT OF
DECLARATORY RELIEF AND WRIT OF
MANDATE TO ENFORCE THE
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT;
EXHIBITS 1-7**

[Cal. Gov. Code, § 7920.000, *et seq*; Cal. Code
Civ. Proc. § 1085, *et seq*.]

Pursuant to California Government Code section 7920.000 *et seq.*, Petitioner Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (“LAFLA”) petitions this Court for declaratory relief and a writ of mandate requiring Respondents City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles Department of Transportation (collectively, “the City”) to promptly and substantively respond to requests for certain public records and provide responsive records as required under the California Public Records Act (Cal. Gov. Code § 7920.000 *et seq.*) (“PRA”). LAFLA also seeks issuance of a writ under those provisions of the California Constitution securing public access to government documents and records. *See* Cal. Const., art. I § 3(b)(1). By this Petition, LAFLA alleges:

I. NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. For many Californians, a vehicle is not just a means of transportation, but a home. And the City regularly tows these homes. In fact, the City conducts approximately 100,000 tows per year, many of which target low-income residents.¹ These tows disproportionately impact immigrants, Black and Latino communities, and unhoused residents. The City’s practices of towing vehicles not only can separate people who are living in their vehicles from their only shelter, but can also plunge low income residents into debt, increasing the risk that they will become homeless in the first place. These practices have also been shown to have a negative impact on cities and the State of California, which can lose money on these tows.²

2. LAFLA has been a leading voice for systems reform and advocacy on behalf of low income and unhoused individuals affected by the City’s towing practices. Since 2017, LAFLA and its coalition partners have submitted PRA requests to numerous “state and local agencies, seeking records related to government-ordered towing. . . to . . . [a]nalyze the structure, finances, processes, and impact of local towing programs; [c]ompare towing programs across jurisdictions; [m]easure the scale and scope of government-ordered tows and towing-related lien

¹ *Towed Into Debt: How Towing Prac. in Cal. Punish Poor People* (Mar. 18, 2019) at pp. 12, 22, 28, 43 <<https://wclp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/TowedIntoDebt.Report.pdf>> (as of Dec. 2, 2024).

² *Towed Into Debt, supra*, at p. 4.; Watts, *Preying on the Poor: Cal. ’s Towing Pracs. Hurt Everyone* (Apr. 15, 2019) <<https://www.streetsheet.org/preying-on-the-poor-californias-towing-practices-hurt-everyone/>> (as of Dec. 2, 2024).

1 sales statewide; [and a]ssess the most common authorities for towing used locally and statewide
2 and compare the outcomes and impacts of different types of tows.”³

3 3. In 2018 and 2024, LAFLA sent similar PRA requests for data to the Los Angeles
4 Department of Transportation. No records responsive to these requests were ever produced. Put
5 simply, the City refuses to be transparent with respect to towing data as obligated under the law.

6 4. “[A]ccess to information concerning the conduct of the people’s business is a
7 fundamental and necessary right of every person in [the] state [of California].” Cal. Gov. Code §
8 7921.000. “In 1968, the [California] Legislature enacted the [PRA] for the purpose of increasing
9 freedom of information by giving members of the public access to information in the possession
10 of public agencies.” *Copley Press, Inc. v. Super. Ct.*, 39 Cal. 4th 1272, 1281 (2006) (internal
11 quotation marks and citations omitted). Despite the California Legislature’s commitment to
12 government transparency, the City repeatedly ignores its obligations under the PRA and leaves
13 requests for towing data unanswered.

14 5. Since 2018 until May 10, 2024, LAFLA has been requesting data related to the
15 City of Los Angeles’s towing practices from the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (“LA
16 DOT”). In particular, LAFLA’s requests sought records regarding towing practices that impact
17 low-income residents. The requested records are critical to analyzing and understanding the
18 scope of the City’s towing practices and its impact on low-income communities. LA DOT is an
19 outlier compared to other transportation agencies and cities around the state, many of which have
20 provided this data. As evidenced by the record outlined below, the City of Los Angeles and LA
21 DOT have a long history of violating their obligations under the PRA, and to this day, have not
22 provided LAFLA, or its coalition partners, data and records responsive to their requests.

23 6. An agency that receives a request under the PRA is required to determine whether
24 the requested records are exempt from disclosure and promptly release all non-exempt records
25 within a strict statutory deadline. *See* Cal. Gov. Code §§ 7922.530(a), 7922.535. The agency is
26
27

28 _____
³ *Towed Into Debt*, *supra*, at p. 40.

1 not permitted to indefinitely delay or otherwise refuse to provide a substantive response to a PRA
2 request.

3 7. The statute specifies that “[w]henever it is made to appear, by verified petition to
4 the superior court of the county where the records or some part thereof are situated, that certain
5 public records are being improperly withheld from a member of the public, the court shall order
6 the officer or person charged with withholding the records to disclose those records or show cause
7 why that person should not do so” and, if the court finds that the failure to disclose is not justified,
8 it shall order the records to be made public. Cal. Gov. Code § 7923.100. Here, the City’s flagrant
9 disregard of the PRA keeps Californians in the dark about Los Angeles’s cost-prohibitive towing
10 practices and its scale and impact on low-income residents. The public interest in transparency
11 clearly outweighs any interest the City may have in non-disclosure. Accordingly, the Court
12 should enter a declaratory judgment and issue a writ, requiring the City to respond to LAFLA’s
13 requests by disclosing all nonexempt records or information responsive to the requests.

14 **II. THE PARTIES**

15 8. Petitioner LAFLA is a non-profit public interest organization under the laws of the
16 state of California. LAFLA works to achieve equal justice for people living in poverty across Los
17 Angeles through direct representation, systems change, and community education. LAFLA is a
18 member of the public with the right to inspect and receive public records and enforce a request for
19 records under the PRA. Cal. Gov. Code, §§ 7920.515-7920.520, 7923.000.

20 9. Respondent LA DOT is a public agency under California Government Code
21 section 7920.525, subdivision (a).

22 10. Respondent City of Los Angeles is a public agency under California Government
23 Code section 7920.525, subdivision (a), and is a parent entity of the Los Angeles Department of
24 Transportation.

25 11. LAFLA has requested records that are prepared and maintained by Respondents,
26 and are, or should be, in their possession.
27
28

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

26
27
28

1 records in the possession of the agency and shall promptly notify the person making the request of
2 the determination and the reasons therefor.” Cal. Gov. Code § 7922.535, subd. (a).

3 17. In certain “unusual circumstances,” an agency may extend the 10-day deadline “by
4 written notice . . . to the person making the request, setting forth the reasons for the extension and
5 the date on which a determination is expected to be dispatched. No notice shall specify a date that
6 would result in an extension for more than 14 days.” Cal. Gov. Code § 7922.535, subds. (a)-(c)
7 (defining “unusual circumstances”) (emphasis added).

8 18. “All public records are subject to disclosure unless the Legislature has expressly
9 provided to the contrary.” *Sierra Club v. Super. Ct.*, 57 Cal. 4th 157, 165-66 (2013).

10 19. Any response to a request that includes a determination that the request is denied,
11 in whole or in part, must be in writing and must set forth the names and titles or positions of each
12 person responsible for the denial. The response must state whether responsive records exist and if
13 the records are otherwise exempt from disclosure. Cal. Gov. Code §§ 7922.605, 7922.540.

14 20. Public agencies are also obligated to (1) assist the public in identifying records and
15 information responsive to a PRA request; (2) describe the information technology and physical
16 location in which records exist and (3) provide suggestions for overcoming any practical basis for
17 denying access to the records or information sought. Cal. Gov. Code. § 7922.600, subd. (a).
18 Agencies have a “duty to assist the public in formulating reasonable requests and then to respond
19 accordingly.” *Fredericks v. Super. Ct.*, 233 Cal. App. 4th 209, 228 (2015), *disapproved on other*
20 *grounds by Nat’l Laws. Guild v. City of Hayward*, 9 Cal. 5th 488, 508, n.9 (2020). Even if no
21 request for assistance is made, the agency nonetheless has a duty to engage the requester.

22 21. The PRA also provides that a “court shall award court costs and reasonable
23 attorney fees to the requestor should the requestor prevail in litigation.” Cal. Gov. Code §
24 7923.115, subd. (a).

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

V. THE CITY VIOLATED THE PRA

A. The City Violated the PRA by Failing to Timely or Properly Respond and Produce Records

22. In or around December 2018, LAFLA submitted its first PRA request to the City. (**Exhibit 1**). This request asked for data related to towing in Los Angeles, which would be used in a report entitled *Towed Into Debt: How Towing Practices in California Punish Poor People* (“Towed Into Debt”). This report was authored by various public interest organizations, including but not limited to, the Western Center on Law & Poverty (“WCLP”), Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights (“LCCR”), and LAFLA. The report and its findings were used to support legislation to ban certain types of poverty tows identified in the report. The City acknowledged receipt of LAFLA’s PRA request and indicated it was “working on” the request, which should be ready soon. (**Exhibit 2, p. 1**).

23. Under the PRA, the City is obligated to “promptly” make publicly available for inspection, or provide a copy of, any record that it prepared, owns, uses, or retains—unless the record is subject to the PRA’s limited exemptions to disclosure. Cal. Gov. Code § 7922.530, subd. (a). Even if such a limited exemption applies, the PRA still obligates government agencies to provide a written response to the requestor outlining the justifications for withholding any record. Cal. Gov. Code § 7922.540. Throughout 2019, LAFLA continued to follow up with the City regarding its 2018 request. Despite agreeing to provide records responsive to LAFLA’s 2018 Request, the City continually extended the timeline to provide the data LAFLA was seeking. (**Exhibit 2**). In October 2019, the City promised to “produce as much data as” they could by November 13, 2019. That was the last communication regarding this request. (**Exhibit 3**).

24. To date, the City has provided no records responsive to the 2018 Request. Despite confirming the existence of these responsive records, the City has not even remotely attempted to follow its obligations under the PRA.⁴

⁴ Given the City’s lack of response to the 2018 PRA request, LAFLA was prepared to file a petition in early 2020, however, this litigation was delayed by the global pandemic, which made it challenging to dedicate resources to enforcing the PRA against local jurisdictions.

1 25. On May 10, 2024, LAFLA submitted a new PRA request (“Request 24-5114”)
2 through the City’s PRA request portal, NextRequest. The request sought similar data to the 2018
3 Request, including several enumerated categories of documents and data from the City “related to
4 parking citations and the towing of vehicles.” **(Exhibit 4).**

5 26. After the City categorically ignored its 10-day statutory response deadline, LAFLA
6 sent a letter on May 24, 2024, requesting a response by no later than May 31, 2024. **(Exhibit 5).**
7 That same day, the City replied stating it was “in the process of reviewing [LAFLA’s] request and
8 was compiling the associated records” in consultation with the City Attorney’s office and that its
9 anticipated response date would be May 31, 2024. **(Exhibit 6, p. 3).** This response deadline was
10 well past the PRA’s 10-day statutory deadline and the City did not invoke the 14-day exception.
11 **(Exhibit 6, p. 3).**

12 27. On May 31, 2024, the City failed to provide any sort of response or records.

13 28. On June 3, 2024, twenty-four days after LAFLA submitted Request 24-5114,
14 LAFLA received a response from the City but no responsive documents. The City also stated that
15 it would take at least 80 hours of programming time to pull the requested data. **(Exhibit 6, p. 3).**

16 29. After LAFLA responded again on June 5, 2024 and June 12, 2024 asking for
17 clarification about the availability of records, the City communicated on June 13, 2024 that
18 responsive records were pending review by the City Attorney’s office and an update to the request
19 would likely be provided by June 20, 2024. **(Exhibit 6, pp. 1-2).**

20 30. The City’s June 13, 2024 response was the last communication LAFLA received.
21 None of the City’s responses satisfy its obligations under Cal. Gov. Code §§ 7922.605 and
22 7922.540. No records were ever made available on June 20, 2024, nor was an update provided,
23 despite the City’s promise to do so.

24 **B. The City Violated the PRA by Failing to Meet and Confer on LAFLA’s Requests**

25 31. Under California Government Code section 7922.600, subsection (a), the City was
26 also obligated to: (1) assist the public in identifying records and information responsive to a PRA
27 request; (2) describe the information technology and physical location in which records exist and
28 (3) provide suggestions for overcoming any practical basis for denying access to the records or

1 information sought. Agencies have a “duty to assist the public in formulating reasonable requests
2 and then to respond accordingly.” *Fredericks*, 233 Cal. App. 4th at 228. In short, an agency must
3 engage with the requester to “make reasonable efforts toward clarification and production.”
4 *Cnty. Youth Athletic Ctr. v. City of Nat’l City*, 220 Cal. App. 4th 1385, 1418 (2013).

5 32. On June 5, 2024, LAFLA messaged the City through NextRequest, asking to meet
6 and confer on the records responsive to Request 24-5114 that would be available immediately to
7 avoid the additional programming costs the City cited for the remaining records in its June 3,
8 2024 correspondence. (**Exhibit 6, p. 2**).

9 33. Having received no response to its June 5, 2024 request to meet and confer,
10 LAFLA sent a follow-up message to the City on June 12, 2024 asking, yet again, to meet and
11 confer on the records responsive to Request 24-5114 that could be produced immediately and to
12 confer on the programming costs for producing the remaining records in the hopes of overcoming
13 any sort of practical basis for the City’s delay and outright inability to promptly produce records
14 responsive to LAFLA’s request. (**Exhibit 6, pp. 1-2**). The City yet again ignored this request in
15 its June 13, 2024 response. (**Exhibit 6, p. 1**).

16 **C. The City’s Purported Costs to Produce Documents Have No Basis in Law or Fact**

17 34. Agencies may only recover “direct costs of duplicating a record,” with respect to
18 paper records and only recover “specified ancillary costs,” for producing electronic records. *Cnty.*
19 *of Santa Clara v. Super. Ct.*, 170 Cal. App. 4th 1301, 1336 (2009) (emphasis added) (citation
20 omitted). The “specified ancillary costs” for electronic records are limited to when the agency
21 must “produce a copy of an electronic record between regularly scheduled intervals of production,
22 or . . . when compliance with the request for an electronic record would require data compilation,
23 extraction, or programming to produce the record.” *Id.* (internal quotation marks and citation
24 omitted). For these programming costs, the agency may only charge what is “necessary to
25 produce a copy of the record.” *Id.* (emphasis added) (internal quotation marks and citation
26 omitted).

27 35. On June 13, 2024, rather than meet and confer as it was obligated to do under the
28 PRA, the City claimed that the programming costs for fully processing Request 24-5114 would

1 start at \$175 per hour, making \$14,000 the estimated cost for LAFLA to obtain these records.
2 **(Exhibit 6, p. 1).**

3 36. But, in or around 2023, in support of new legislation and in anticipation of an
4 update to the “Towed Into Debt” report, LAFLA’s coalition partners, WCLP and LCCR,
5 submitted a PRA request (the “WCLP Request”) to the City seeking the exact same data LAFLA
6 requested in Request 24-5114. **(Exhibit 7).** In its response to WCLP and LCCR’s request, the
7 City estimated it would take 40 hours to pull the same records at a cost of \$175 per hour, making
8 \$7,000 the estimated cost for WCLP and LCCR to obtain these same records.

9 37. The City provided no explanation why the estimated time and total costs to
10 respond to an identical PRA request doubled over the course of one year.

11 38. In addition to providing no explanation for these exorbitant costs, in its June 13,
12 2024 correspondence with LAFLA, the City also ignored LAFLA’s request to meet and confer to
13 find practical solutions to reduce these costs. Reducing the costs would not only benefit LAFLA,
14 but also the City. The City again failed to produce any records, even those that were immediately
15 available. Instead, the City arbitrarily extended its response deadline, yet again, claiming that the
16 records were being reviewed by the City Attorney, and anticipating an update on or around June
17 20, 2024. **(Exhibit 6, p. 1).** This was the last communication from the City regarding this
18 request.

19 39. LAFLA submitted its PRA request nearly 7 months ago and has not received a
20 proper determination regarding its request, any substantive response to meet and confer, or a
21 single responsive record.

22 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

23 **For Violations of the California Public Records Act and the California Constitution**

24 40. LAFLA incorporates by reference the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set
25 forth herein.

26 41. Under the PRA, LAFLA has a right to request and inspect, and the City has a duty
27 to provide promptly and without delay, responsive records subject to disclosure.
28

1 42. Per California Government Code section 7922.535, subds. (a)-(c), the City has a
2 mandatory, non-discretionary duty to adhere to deadlines and notice requirements when
3 responding to records request.

4 43. Under California Government Code section 7922.535(a), the City has a duty to
5 determine and notify LAFLA whether the requested records were disclosable within ten days, to
6 be extended to no more than fourteen days in the event of “unusual circumstances” upon
7 notification to LAFLA in writing of the existence of such circumstances. Any such records
8 deemed to be disclosable should have been made “promptly” available. Cal. Gov. Code, §
9 7922.535, subd. (a).

10 44. The PRA limits what the City can charge for the production of responsive records
11 to “fees covering direct costs of duplication, or a statutory fee if applicable,” (Cal. Gov. Code §
12 7922.530, subd. (a)), but not the cost of staff time to search, review, and redact records. *N. Cnty.*
13 *Parents Org. v. Dep’t of Educ.*, 23 Cal. App. 4th 144, 146-47 (1994).

14 45. For electronic records, the PRA requires requestors to bear “the cost to construct a
15 record, and the cost of programming and computer services *necessary* to produce a copy of the
16 record,” if the request would require data compilation, extraction, or programming to produce the
17 records or the electronic record is produced only at regular intervals. Cal. Gov. Code § 7922.575,
18 subd. (b)(1) (emphasis added).

19 46. LAFLA submitted a valid request for records under the PRA on May 10, 2024.

20 47. The City has repeatedly failed to substantively respond and promptly provide all
21 nonexempt records responsive to LAFLA’s requests. To the extent the City is withholding any
22 records based on a claimed exemption, the City also failed to identify that exemption or provide
23 the requisite information regarding the decision to withhold the responsive records. Cal. Gov.
24 Code §§ 7922.605 and 7922.540. The City also has failed to meet and confer on any of LAFLA’s
25 requests as required by the PRA. Cal. Gov. Code § 7922.600(a).

26 48. The City’s failure to provide a proper determination or substantive response as to
27 LAFLA’s requests for records is wholly inadequate and an impermissible dereliction of its duties
28

1 under the PRA and the California Constitution, art. I, § 3, and accordingly violates the public's
2 statutory and constitutional right of access.

3 49. Issuance of a writ of mandate compelling the City to satisfy its obligations under
4 the PRA is required because there exists no plain, speedy, and adequate remedy in the ordinary
5 course of law which would protect LAFLA's rights and interests.

6 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

7 WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays for judgment as follows:

8 A. For issuance of a peremptory writ of mandate compelling the City of Los Angeles
9 and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to immediately disclose all non-exempt,
10 requested public records in their possession;

11 B. For a declaration that the conduct of the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles
12 Department of Transportation violates the PRA in failing to timely disclose all non-exempt,
13 requested public records in their possession, failing to timely and properly respond to public
14 records requests, and failing to meet and confer with Petitioner on its requests;

15 C. For an injunction requiring the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles
16 Department of Transportation to produce all disclosable records forthwith;

17 D. For reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 1021.5 and Cal.
18 Gov. Code § 7923.115, subd. (a);

19 E. For costs of suit; and

20 F. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

21 //

22 //

23 //

24 //

25

26

27

28

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

DATED: December 12, 2024

DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE LLP
JONATHAN L. SEGAL
RACHEL R. GOLDBERG
ALEXANDRA CADENA

By: 
Jonathan L. Segal

Attorneys for Plaintiff/Petitioner
LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LOS
ANGELES

LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES
SHAYLA MYERS
ANNA HALES


By: _____
Shayla Myers

Attorney for Plaintiff/Petitioner
LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LOS
ANGELES

VERIFICATION

I, Silvia Argueta, am Executive Director of Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (“LAFLA”), Plaintiff/Petitioner in this action.

I have read the foregoing **VERIFIED COMPLAINT AND PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE TO ENFORCE THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT** and know the contents thereof. The facts as alleged therein are true to the best of my knowledge, except as to those matters alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true. I have authorization to verify such facts on behalf of LAFLA.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on the 12th day of December 2024 in Los Angeles, California.



Silvia Argueta

EXHIBIT 1



7000 S. Broadway
Los Angeles, CA 90003
213-640-3950
213-640-3988 fax
www.lafla.org

The frontline law firm for poor and low-income people in Los Angeles

Writer's Direct Line (213) 640-3983

December 21, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Los Angeles Department of Transportation
PO Box 30247
Los Angeles, CA 90030-0968
Ladot.publicrecords@lacity.org

RE: California Public Records Act Request

Dear Custodian of Records:

This is a request pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Gov't Code §§ 6250 et seq.) on behalf of our clients, for copies of records related to the towing of vehicles within the City of Los Angeles ("City"). The term "record" as used in this request has the same broad definition as is given the term "writing" in Section 6252(f) of the Government Code.¹ We look forward to hearing from you within 10 days, as required by Government Code section 6253(c).

Please provide copies of all documents and records in possession or under control of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation for the period between **August 1st, 2015** and the present. Specifically, we request the following records:

1. Records that capture how many vehicles were ordered impounded by the City of Los Angeles, including but not limited to the Department of Transportation and underlying department personnel each month between August 1st, 2015 and the present;
2. Records and data from the City for all impounds. each impounded vehicle, please provide records or data that captures the following information:
 - a. Date/time request of tow;
 - b. Which entity ordered the tow;

Other Office Locations:

East Los Angeles Office, 5228 Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90022; 213-640-3883
Long Beach Office, 601 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802; 562-435-3501
Santa Monica Office, 1640 5th St., Suite 124, Santa Monica, CA 90401; 310-899-6200
Ron Olson Justice Center, 1550 W 8th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017; 323-801-7989

LSC | America's Partner
for Equal Justice
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

- c. Citation/reason for towing;
- d. Citation fees;
- e. Location from which vehicle was towed;
- f. Vehicle's make, model, year, license, VIN;
- g. Owner's address, age, or any other available information;
- h. Destination to which vehicle was towed;
- i. Date/time tow unit arrives at storage facility;
- j. Date/time of release of vehicle;
- k. Fees for towing and storage;
- l. Method of payment;
- m. Whether the tow was contested, in what manner it was contested (in writing, in person hearing), whether tow was successfully contested;
- n. Unique identifier for that tow, where applicable.

For all the data requested in item 2, we are requesting any reports already compiled in the regular course of business by your agency or any other authorized agent. If such reports exist but do not contain all of the details in items 2a-n, please send whatever information is available.

- 3. Records regarding vehicles sold in public auction or lien sale. If data is available, please provide the following information for each vehicle auctioned:
 - a. The value of the assessed vehicle;
 - b. The total amount of tow and storage fees due at the time of sale;
 - c. The total amount of parking ticket, registration or other fees due at the time of sale;
 - d. The amount the vehicle sold for at auction;
 - e. Any deficiency debt, if applicable.
- 4. All weekly reports submitted to the LADOT by Official Police Garages (OPGs) regarding towing.
- 5. Any reports compiling, summarizing, or analyzing data submitted by the Official Police Garages, including but not limited to any reports analyzing, summarizing or compiling data extracted from the weekly reports submitted by the OPGs.
- 6. Copy of the text of any "regulation, ordinance, or resolution" adopted pursuant to Vehicle Code Section 22850, "establishing procedures for the release of properly impounded vehicles and for the imposition of a charge equal to its administrative costs relating to the removal, impound, storage, or release of vehicles."
- 7. All formal written guidelines, descriptive documents, or training materials regarding the administration of post-storage hearings such as those described in Vehicle Code Section 22852.
- 8. All complaints received by the LA DOT or in the possession of the LA DOT regarding the behavior of any tow company with which the City has contracted.
- 9. Any documents related to any investigation that occurred as a result of such complaint;
- 10. All documents related to any fee waiver or fee reduction processes for indigent individuals whose vehicles are impounded.

We have attempted to be as specific as possible in designating the public records we wish to obtain. If you find that our request is unclear, we request that you provide us with the assistance required under Government Code § 6253.1(a)(1)-(3), including “assist[ing] the member of the public to identify records and information that are responsive to the request or to the purpose of the request, if stated.”

The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles is a non-profit public interest legal organization that provides legal assistance to low-income people, and seeks these documents on behalf of our clients. No part of the information obtained pursuant to this request will be sold or distributed for profit. For that reason, we respectfully request that you waive any fees in connection with the production of these documents. If you are not able to waive the applicable fees, please inform me of any payment required *prior* to copying or printing the responsive documents.

If you are aware of documents that may exist but are not held by LA DOT, we ask that you identify the Department, Agency, or other entity that may have those documents, and a person, if known, who should be contacted regarding those documents.

Please reply to this request within 10 working days, or as otherwise provided by statute. *Id.* § 6253(c). If any of the requested records exist in electronic format, including in Excel spreadsheet or PDF, please make them available in their native electronic format, rather than paper format, as required by California Government Code § 6253.9. Please send electronically transmittable records via email to smyers@lafla.org and compact disks and any paper records to the following address:

Shayla Myers
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
7000 S. Broadway
Los Angeles, CA 90013
smyers@lafla.org

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me by email at smyers@lafla.org or by phone at 213-640-3983.

Thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S. Myers'.

Shayla Myers

EXHIBIT 2

From: Daylon Powell <daylon.powell@lacity.org>
Sent: Friday, January 4, 2019 3:05 PM
To: Shayla R. Myers
Subject: Public Records Request

Hello Shayla,

We are currently working on your request. We should have it ready soon. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you



Daylon Powell

Risk Management/ Records Division
Los Angeles Department Of Transportation

From: Shayla R. Myers <SMyers@lafla.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 1:47 PM
To: 'Daylon Powell'
Subject: RE: Public Records Request
Attachments: 1330140.PDF

Dear Daylon:

We have not received any information regarding the request for public records that I sent on December 21, 2018. A copy of the request is attached for your convenience. The last response I received from you was on January 4, 2019, indicating that you were working on a response. I'd appreciate an update on the status of the request. When can we expect a substantive response?

Thanks in advance, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Shayla Myers

Shayla R. Myers | SAttorney
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
7000 S. Broadway | Los Angeles, CA 90003
213.640.3983 **direct** | 213.640.3988 **facsimile**
smyers@lafla.org | www.lafla.org



The Frontline Law Firm for Poor and Low-Income People in Los Angeles

This message contains information from the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles which may be confidential and/or privileged. If you are not an intended recipient, please refrain from any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this information and note that such actions are prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, kindly notify the sender and immediately delete this email and any files that may be attached.

From: Daylon Powell <daylon.powell@lacity.org>
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2019 12:05 PM
To: Shayla R. Myers <SMyers@lafla.org>
Subject: Public Records Request

Hello Shayla,

We are currently working on your request. We should have it ready soon. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you

From: Daylon Powell <daylon.powell@lacity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 2:35 PM
To: Shayla R. Myers
Subject: Re: Public Records Request

Hello Shayla,

I checked on your request and it is currently still being worked on. Due to the size of your request, we will need an additional 14 days to try to get all the documents. I will update you on January 30, 2019, unless the request is done before then.

Thank you.



Daylon Powell

Risk Management/ Records Division
Los Angeles Department Of Transportation

On Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 10:46 AM Shayla R. Myers <SMyers@lafla.org> wrote:

Dear Daylon:

We have not received any information regarding the request for public records that I sent on December 21, 2018. A copy of the request is attached for your convenience. The last response I received from you was on January 4, 2019, indicating that you were working on a response. I'd appreciate an update on the status of the request. When can we expect a substantive response?

Thanks in advance, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Shayla Myers

Shayla R. Myers | SAttorney
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

From: Daylon Powell <daylon.powell@lacity.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 7, 2019 5:55 PM
To: Shayla R. Myers
Subject: Re: Public Records Request

Hello Shayla,

Sorry for the late reply. Earlier this week, I checked with Parking Enforcement to see where they were with your request. They are still working on it and I assured them that we need to get it done ASAP. I will update you again some time next week.



Daylon Powell

Risk Management/ Records Division
Los Angeles Department Of Transportation

On Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 1:10 PM Shayla R. Myers <SMyers@lafla.org> wrote:

Dear Daylon,

I am following up from a request for documents pursuant to the CPRA, which I submitted on December 21, 2018. After communicating with you regarding the request in January 2019, you indicated on January 16, 2018 that LA DOT needed an additional 14 days to complete the request, and that I would receive an update on January 30, 2019 regarding the request. The prior email communications are below.

I have not yet received any responsive documents or a substantive response to the request. I would appreciate an update on the status of the request.

Thank you in advance,

Shayla Myers

From: Shayla R. Myers <SMyers@lafla.org>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 6:01 PM
To: 'Daylon Powell'; 'Ladot.publicrecords@lacity.org'
Subject: Correspondence re: December 2018 CPRA request
Attachments: LADOT CPRA request for towing data.PDF; Letter from SRM to LA DOT re CPRA_12.21.2018.PDF

Dear Daylon Powell:

Attached please find correspondence regarding our outstanding public records act request.

Shayla Myers | Senior Attorney
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
7000 S. Broadway | Los Angeles, CA 90003
213.640.3983 **direct** | 213.640.3988 **facsimile**
www.lafla.org | smyers@lafla.org



Writer's Direct Line (213) 640-3983

VIA EMAIL

October 21, 2019

Daylon Powell
Risk Management/Records Department
Los Angeles Department of Transportation
100 South Main St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: California Records Act Request, August 30, 2019

Dear Daylon Powell:

On December 21, 2018, I submitted a California Public Records Act request to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. The request seeks documents related to the towing practices of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. A copy of the request is attached for your convenience.

Although the request was submitted ten months ago, we have not received a substantive response or any documents responsive to our request. In fact, we have not received any communications from your office since February 2019, when you indicated that the responsive documents would be forthcoming shortly.

The California Public Records Act requires a response to requests within 10 days of the submission of such a request. *See* Ca. Gov't Code § 6253(c). *See also Community Youth Athletic Center v. City of National City*, 164 Cal.Rptr.3d 644, 671, 220 Cal.App.4th 1385, 1419 (Cal.App. 4 Dist., 2013); *Marken v. Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School Dist.*, 202 Ca1.App.4t' 1250, 1268 n. 14 (2012). Obviously, far more than 10 days have passed since we sent our request.

We request you provide an update on the request by Wednesday, October 23, 2019 and a full written response and responsive documents as required by the CPRA, by no later than October 31, 2019. If you have any questions about the scope of the request or any other issues related to this request, I can be reached at 213-640-3983. We look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



Shayla R. Myers

Other Office Locations:

East Los Angeles Office, 5228 Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90022; 213-640-3883
Long Beach Office, 601 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802; 562-435-3501
Santa Monica Office, 1640 5th St., Suite 124, Santa Monica, CA 90401; 310-899-6200
Ron Olson Justice Center, 1550 W 8th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017; 323-801-7989

From: Daylon Powell <daylon.powell@lacity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2019 6:01 PM
To: Shayla R. Myers
Subject: Re: Correspondence re: December 2018 CPRA request

Hello Shayla,

Sorry for the long delay in your request. Let me find out why it isn't completed. I will have a final update with you by Tuesday. Thank you.



Daylon Powell

Risk Management/ Records Division
Los Angeles Department Of Transportation

On Mon, Oct 21, 2019 at 3:00 PM Shayla R. Myers <SMyers@lafla.org> wrote:

Dear Daylon Powell:

Attached please find correspondence regarding our outstanding public records act request.

Shayla Myers | Senior Attorney

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

7000 S. Broadway | Los Angeles, CA 90003

213.640.3983 **direct** | 213.640.3988 **facsimile**

www.lafla.org | smyers@lafla.org

From: Shayla R. Myers <SMyers@lafla.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2019 8:09 PM
To: 'Daylon Powell'
Subject: RE: Correspondence re: December 2018 CPRA request

Thank you. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

From: Daylon Powell <daylon.powell@lacity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2019 3:01 PM
To: Shayla R. Myers <SMyers@lafla.org>
Subject: Re: Correspondence re: December 2018 CPRA request

Hello Shayla,

Sorry for the long delay in your request. Let me find out why it isn't completed. I will have a final update with you by Tuesday. Thank you.



Daylon Powell
Risk Management/ Records Division
Los Angeles Department Of Transportation

On Mon, Oct 21, 2019 at 3:00 PM Shayla R. Myers <SMyers@lafla.org> wrote:

Dear Daylon Powell:

Attached please find correspondence regarding our outstanding public records act request.

Shayla Myers | Senior Attorney

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

7000 S. Broadway | Los Angeles, CA 90003

213.640.3983 **direct** | 213.640.3988 **facsimile**

www.lafla.org | smyers@lafla.org

From: Shayla R. Myers <SMyers@lafla.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 9:06 PM
To: 'Daylon Powell'
Subject: RE: Correspondence re: December 2018 CPRA request

Dear Daylon:

It is now Tuesday, and I have not received an update from you, as promised below, regarding this request. As I spelled out in my letter dated October 21, 2019, the Department of Transportation is well outside the window to provide a response. The request has been outstanding since December 2018.

If we do not receive a response this week, we will consider legal action to enforce the California Public Records Act. Obviously, it is our preference to simply receive the documents, but this delay is unacceptable.

Thanks, and I hope to receive the requests.

Sincerely,

Shayla Myers

From: Shayla R. Myers
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2019 5:09 PM
To: 'Daylon Powell' <daylon.powell@lacity.org>
Subject: RE: Correspondence re: December 2018 CPRA request

Thank you. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

From: Daylon Powell <daylon.powell@lacity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2019 3:01 PM
To: Shayla R. Myers <SMyers@lafla.org>
Subject: Re: Correspondence re: December 2018 CPRA request

Hello Shayla,

Sorry for the long delay in your request. Let me find out why it isn't completed. I will have a final update with you by Tuesday. Thank you.



Daylon Powell

Risk Management/ Records Division
Los Angeles Department Of Transportation

On Mon, Oct 21, 2019 at 3:00 PM Shayla R. Myers <SMyers@lafla.org> wrote:

EXHIBIT 3

From: Daylon Powell <daylon.powell@lacity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 5:21 PM
To: Shayla R. Myers
Subject: Re: Correspondence re: December 2018 CPRA request

Hi Shayla,

Sorry, I was out of the office yesterday. I actually spoke with our division, who is working on your request, on Monday. Your request is first priority since it was made last year. I also made it a priority to release data to you as they come. By November 13, 2019, I will produce as much data as we can and will give you a follow-up on where we are.

Once again, sorry for the inconvenience. Please let me know if you have any questions.



Daylon Powell

Risk Management/ Records Division
Los Angeles Department Of Transportation

On Tue, Oct 29, 2019 at 6:06 PM Shayla R. Myers <SMyers@lafla.org> wrote:

Dear Daylon:

It is now Tuesday, and I have not received an update from you, as promised below, regarding this request. As I spelled out in my letter dated October 21, 2019, the Department of Transportation is well outside the window to provide a response. The request has been outstanding since December 2018.

If we do not receive a response this week, we will consider legal action to enforce the California Public Records Act. Obviously, it is our preference to simply receive the documents, but this delay is unacceptable.

Thanks, and I hope to receive the requests.

EXHIBIT 4

213-640-3983

May 10, 2024

VIA NEXTREQUEST

Los Angeles Department of Transportation
PO Box 30247
Los Angeles, CA 90030-0968

RE: California Public Records Act Request

Dear Custodian of Records:

This is a request pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Govt. Code §§ 7920 et seq.) for copies of documents and data from LA DOT or other agencies related to parking citations and the towing of vehicles. This request encompasses the records falling within the specific categories set forth below. The term “record” as used in this request has the same broad definition as is given the term “writing” in Section 7920.545 of the Government Code.¹ Specifically, I request the following records:

1. The number of vehicles impounded by the City since March 1, 2018 (disaggregated by month), the reasons for the impound, the location from where the vehicle was towed, and the zip code of the registered vehicle owner.
2. The number of vehicles that currently have five or more unpaid citations in the City, the license plate number associated with each vehicle, the number of unpaid citations, and the citation balance associated with each license plate number.
3. All available data sets about unpaid parking citations the City and/or its processing agency have submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) pursuant to Vehicle Code 4760, including any data sets that contain any of the following information:
 - a. The aggregate number of vehicles, parking citations, parking penalties transmitted to the DMV annually in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023;

¹ “Writing” as defined by Section 7920.545 means:

Any handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostating, photographing, photocopying, transmitting by electronic mail or facsimile, and every other means of recording upon any tangible thing, any form of communication or representation, including letters, words, pictures, sounds, or symbols, or combinations thereof, and any record thereby created, regardless of the manner in which the record has been stored.

Other Office Locations:

East Los Angeles Office, 5301 Whittier Blvd., 4th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90022; 213-640-3883
Long Beach Office, 601 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802; 562-435-3501
Santa Monica Office, 1640 5th St., Suite 124, Santa Monica, CA 90401; 310-899-6200
South Los Angeles Office, 7000 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90003; 213-640-3950

- b. The total amount for unpaid parking penalties collected and remitted by the DMV to the City and/or its processing agent annually in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023; and
 - c. For all parking penalties currently on file with the DMV, the vehicle license plate, the number of unpaid citations, the date of each citation, and the amount due for each citation.
 - d. The amount of money owed for outstanding parking tickets on vehicles towed by the City since March 1, 2018, disaggregated by month or year.
 - e. The amount of money remitted back to the City for outstanding parking tickets, following the towing of vehicles, if the vehicle is reclaimed following the impound, disaggregated by month or year, since March 1, 2018.
 - f. The amount of money remitted back to the City for outstanding parking tickets, following the towing of vehicles, if the vehicle is unclaimed and sold at auction.
4. Any available data sets that include any information about vehicles impounded for five or more unpaid parking tickets, including the following information:
 - a. The make, model and year of the vehicle;
 - b. The assessed value of the vehicle;
 - c. The total amount of tow and storage fees;
 - d. The total amount of parking ticket, registration or other fees owed;
 - e. Whether the vehicle was claimed or sold at auction;
 - f. The amount the vehicle sold for at auction, if applicable;
 - g. Any deficiency debt, if applicable;
 - h. The amount of money remitted to the City related to any outstanding parking penalties or fees;
 - i. Any debt remaining after the vehicle was claimed or sold; and
 - j. The amount of money returned to the owner of the vehicle, if applicable.
5. Any available data sets that include any information about the sale of vehicles impounded for expired registration, including the following information:
 - a. The make, model and year of the vehicle;
 - b. The license plate of the vehicle;
 - c. The assessed value of the vehicle;
 - d. The total amount of tow and storage fees per vehicle and/or in aggregate;
 - e. The total amount of parking ticket, registration or other fees owed per vehicle and/or in aggregate;
 - f. The length of time the vehicle registration was expired when the vehicle was towed;
 - g. Whether there were any parking penalties on file with the DMV when the vehicle was towed;
 - h. The reason the vehicle was not registered (i.e., hold placed on the registration for outstanding parking tickets, no smog test, etc.);
 - i. Whether the vehicle was claimed or sold at auction;
 - j. The amount the vehicle sold for at auction, if applicable;
 - k. Any deficiency debt, if applicable;
 - l. The amount of money remitted to the City of related to any outstanding parking penalties or fees;
 - m. Any debt remaining after the vehicle was released or sold; and
 - n. The amount of money returned to the owner of the vehicle, if applicable.
6. Documents that show all fees or other penalties charged to vehicle owners by the City or the City's agents or contracts when a vehicle is towed.
7. All policies and procedures regarding payment plans for unpaid parking tickets, including:
 - a. Whether there is a deadline for enrolling an unpaid parking ticket;

- b. Whether there is a cap on the amount of unpaid parking penalties that can be enrolled in a payment plan;
 - c. What income limits or other criteria are used to determine whether a vehicle owner qualifies for a low-income or indigent payment plan;
 - d. Any policies regarding when a vehicle owner misses a payment deadline; and
 - e. Any policies regarding the transmittal or recall of an itemization of parking penalties from the DMV pursuant to Vehicle Code 4760.
8. Copies of all public information about payment plans for unpaid parking tickets, including flyers, notices, and applications.
9. All data available about participation in parking ticket payment plans in 2018 through the present, including:
 - a. The number of applications or requests for a payment plan;
 - b. The number of payment plans that were approved, and the number of tickets and total amount of parking penalties enrolled in each plan;
 - c. The number of payment plan applications or requests that were denied and the reason for the denial;
 - d. The number of payment plans that were successfully completed;
 - e. The number of payment plans that were not completed and whether the unpaid parking tickets were submitted to the DMV.
 - f. For each year from 2018 through the present, the aggregate number of parking citations issued, the amount of parking penalties collected, the number of late fees assessed, the amount of parking penalties that are outstanding, and the average length of time each ticket was outstanding.
 - g. For each year from 2018 through the present year, the aggregate amount spent by the City on parking enforcement.
 - h. For each year from 2018 through the present year, the aggregate amount spent by the City collecting unpaid parking citations, including any amounts charged by or maintained by the DMV.

I look forward to working with you to obtain these public records and to your response to this request **within ten (10) days** of receipt of this letter. See California Government Code § 7922.535(a).

To the extent that your agency claims the right to withhold any record, or portion of any record, please describe each and every record or portion of any record that is being withheld and the claimed reason for the exemption, citing the exact language of the Public Records Act and the legal authority on which you rely as well as any documents that support this position. If portions of the records requested are exempt from disclosure, please provide the non-exempt portions. In addition, if any part of this request is unclear, please contact me to discuss the request, to ensure that responsive documents are produced. See § 7922.60. I also request that you produce responsive documents as they become available and on a rolling basis, rather than withholding records until all records responsive to the request are identified.

If any of the records requested above are available in electronic format, including in Excel spreadsheet or PDF, please make them available in their native electronic format, rather than paper format, as required by California Government Code § 7922.570(a). I request that you email me any records available in electronic format to avoid copying costs.

The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles is a non-profit public interest organization, and the records are being requested to further our work in the public interest. No part of the information

obtained with be distributed or sold for profit. Therefore, I request that you waive any fees associated with this request. If you are unwilling to waive any associated costs, I request you provide us with an estimate of the total costs associated with the request. In addition, if any documents cannot be provided in electronic format, I request that you provide the documents for inspection and scanning by our office to avoid copying costs.

Please send responsive documents to me, via email or mail, at

Shayla Myers
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
1550 W. 8th St.,
Los Angeles, California 90017
smyers@lafla.org

Finally, if you are aware of documents that may exist but are not held by LA DOT, we ask that you identify the Department, Agency, or other entity that may have those documents, and a person, if known, who should be contacted regarding those documents.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (213) 640-3983 or smyers@lafla.org.

Thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Myers', written in a cursive style.

Shayla Myers

EXHIBIT 5

213-640-3983

May 24, 2024

VIA NEXTREQUEST

Los Angeles Department of Transportation
PO Box 30247
Los Angeles, CA 90030-0968

RE: California Public Records Act Request No. 24-5114

Dear Custodian of Records:

I am following up from my request for documents pursuant to the California Public Records Act (CPRA), Ca. Gov't Code §7921.000et seq, which was sent via NextRequest on May 10, 2024.

We have not received any response to our request. As you know, government entities like the LADOT are required to respond to CPRA requests within 10 days; extensions of no more than 14 days are available only in "unusual circumstances." Gov't Code §7922.535. The Court of Appeal has emphasized the mandatory nature of these statutory deadlines. *See Marken v. Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School Dist.*, 202 Cal. App. 4th 1250, 1268 n. 14 (2012). This requirement goes to the heart of the CPRA, given the statute's purpose of promoting "disclosure of public information at a time when the material still was newsworthy or of particular import to the plaintiff." *Powers v. City of Richmond*, 10 Cal. 4th 85, 118 (1995) (Geore, J., concurring).

Two weeks have now passed since I sent the request.—The LA DOT has not timely responded to our request, has not advised us as to the availability of responsive documents, has not produced any documents responsive to any of our requests, and has not identified any documents it is withholding or the basis for the refusal to produce documents, all of which is required by the CPRA.

LA DOT's failure to even respond to the request constitutes a violation of the CPRA. We request that you respond to our request, as required by the Government Code, by no later than May 31, 2024. I expect you will provide us with any documents responsive to our request at that time.

It is my hope that the LA DOT will meet its statutory obligations without the need for court intervention. Thank you in advance for your assistance, and I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



Shayla Myers

Other Office Locations:

East Los Angeles Office, 5301 Whittier Blvd., 4th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90022; 213-640-3883
Long Beach Office, 601 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802; 562-435-3501
Santa Monica Office, 1640 5th St., Suite 124, Santa Monica, CA 90401; 310-899-6200
South Los Angeles Office, 7000 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90003; 213-640-3950

EXHIBIT 6

Skip to main content

Public Record Requests

City of Los Angeles

Request Visibility:  Unpublished

Request 24-5114 Open



Dates

Received

May 10, 2024 via web

Requester

 Shayla Myers

 smyers@lafla.org

 1550 W. 8th St. , Los Angeles, CA, 90017

 213-640-3983

 Legal Foundation of Los Angeles

Staff assigned

Departments

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Point of contact

Daylon Powell

Request

Please see attached.

TimelineDocuments

 Message to requester Requester + Staff

Hello,

The responsive records provided by the LADOT vendor are currently pending review by the City Attorney's Office. Once reviewed and a determination by the City Attorney's Office is made, the information will be updated here on the portal. We anticipate an update to this request on or before June 20, 2024.

Secondly, programming costs start at approximately \$175/ hour depending on the scope of work necessary.

Best regards

June 13, 2024, 3:49pm by Staff

 Message from requester Requester + Staff

Mr. Powell,

I sent correspondence a week ago regarding LA DOT's response to my CPRA dated May 10, 2024. Specifically, I requested you identify and provide whatever documents are responsive and

that LA DOT discuss our request, as required by the CPRA. I have not gotten a response. Please let me know when you are available to discuss this request.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from LA DOT.

Shayla Myers

June 12, 2024, 3:54pm by the requester



Message from requester

Requester + Staff

Thank you for your response, but I am unclear about a number of points.

First, please provide us with whatever information from Trellint that is available and responsive to our request.

Second, I would like to meet and discuss the availability of records that LA DOT may have that include the requested information, without the need to do any programming, as well as the basis for the estimate that running such a report would take 80 hours. We may be willing to pay for programming costs, but we will need to know what is entailed and the basis for the estimate.

I am available next week on Monday, June 10 in the afternoon, or any time on Tuesday, June 11 or Thursday, June 13. Please let me know if any of those times are available to discuss this request.

Thanks in advance,

Shayla Myers

June 5, 2024, 2:39pm by the requester



Message to requester

Requester + Staff

Hello,

The data regarding impounded vehicles should be requested from the OPG's (official police garage). While Trellint does have some impound information as part of the parking citations, some vehicles may also be impounded for reasons other than delinquent parking citations or parking violations. Some of the payment plan information can be found on the Parking Violations Bureau website: www.lacity-parking.org. Other detailed parking revenue information can be obtained from the City's budget and financial information website: <https://cao.lacity.gov/budget/index.htm>.

The rest of the details requested would require an estimate of at least 80 hours of labor for the programmer or Analyst. The contractor's data retention policy is for a minimum of five years. Therefore, available data would be from May 2019 to May 2024.

If the contractor is required to run the above reports, please are you willing to pay for the hours rendered to do this analysis? The contractor can provide a quote for the service, if you are agreeable to pay for the programming hours.

June 3, 2024, 4:06pm by Staff



Message to requester



Requester + Staff

Thank you for submitting your CPRA records request to LADOT's Records Management Section. This letter is a response to your request for access to public records, which was received by LADOT on May 10, 2024. LADOT is in the process of reviewing your request and compiling the associated records – consistent with direction from the LA City Attorney's Office. LADOT anticipates having your response (or an update of the progress of compiling and reviewing the records if it will take longer) by May 31, 2024.

The copy cost will be \$0.10 per page, unless the requested document has an established statutory fee. LADOT will notify you of the copy cost and will send you the records upon receipt of payment. If you prefer to pick up the records from the office, you may submit payment at that time.

May 24, 2024, 4:06pm by Staff

 Message from requester

Requester + Staff

I've sent correspondence regarding this request via the Upload Document link.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Shayla Myers

May 24, 2024, 12:03pm by the requester

 Department assignment

Public

Department of Transportation (DOT)

May 10, 2024, 3:31pm by the requester

 Request opened

Public

Request received via web

May 10, 2024, 3:31pm by the requester

EXHIBIT 7

[Skip to main content](#)

City of Los Angeles

 NextRequestRequest Visibility:  Unpublished

Request 23-3625 Open



2 of 2 with filters active

Dates

Received

April 12, 2023 via web

Requester



Maddie



mflood@lccrsf.org



131 Steuart St, Suite 400 , San Francisco , ID, 94105



Flood



Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area

Staff assigned

Departments

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Point of contact

Daylon Powell

Request

Western Center on Law & Poverty (WCLP) and Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area (LCCRSF) make the following request for documents to the city of Los Angeles pursuant to California Government Code section 7921, *et seq.* Where applicable, please provide the data in Excel or CSV.

Data Requests

1. The number of vehicles impounded by the City since March 1, 2018 (disaggregated by month), the reasons for the impound, the location from where the vehicle was towed, and the zip code of the registered vehicle owner.
2. The number of vehicles that currently have five or more unpaid citations in the City, the license plate number associated with each vehicle, the number of unpaid citations, and the citation balance associated with each license plate number.
3. All available data sets about unpaid parking citations the City and/or its processing agency have submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) pursuant to Vehicle Code 4760, including the following information:
4. The aggregate number of vehicles, parking citations, parking penalties transmitted to the DMV annually in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023;
5. The total amount for unpaid parking penalties collected and remitted by the DMV to the City and/or its processing agent annually in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023; and
6. For all parking penalties currently on file with the DMV, the vehicle license plate, the number of unpaid citations, the date of each citation, and the amount due for each citation.
7. The amount of money owed for outstanding parking tickets on vehicles towed by the City since March 1, 2018, disaggregated by month or year.
8. The amount of money remitted back to the City for outstanding parking tickets, following the towing of

vehicles, if the vehicle is reclaimed following the impound, disaggregated by month or year, since March 1, 2018.

9. The amount of money remitted back to the City for outstanding parking tickets, following the towing of vehicles, if the vehicle is unclaimed and sold at auction.
10. Any available data sets that include information about vehicles impounded for five or more unpaid parking tickets, including the following information:
 - a. The make, model and year of the vehicle;
 - b. The assessed value of the vehicle;
 - c. The total amount of tow and storage fees;
 - d. The total amount of parking ticket, registration or other fees owed;
 - e. Whether the vehicle was claimed or sold at auction;
 - f. The amount the vehicle sold for at auction, if applicable;
 - g. Any deficiency debt, if applicable;
 - h. The amount of money remitted to the City related to any outstanding parking penalties or fees;
 - i. Any debt remaining after the vehicle was claimed or sold; and
 - j. The amount of money returned to the owner of the vehicle, if applicable.
1. Any available data sets that include information about the sale of vehicles impounded for expired registration, including the following information:
 - a. The make, model and year of the vehicle;
 - b. The license plate of the vehicle;
 - c. The assessed value of the vehicle;
 - d. The total amount of tow and storage fees per vehicle and/or in aggregate;
 - e. The total amount of parking ticket, registration or other fees owed per vehicle and/or in aggregate;
 - f. The length of time the vehicle registration was expired when the vehicle was towed;
 - g. Whether there were any parking penalties on file with the DMV when the vehicle was towed;
 - h. The reason the vehicle was not registered (i.e., hold placed on the registration for outstanding parking tickets, no smog test, etc.);

- i. Whether the vehicle was claimed or sold at auction;
 - j. The amount the vehicle sold for at auction, if applicable;
 - k. Any deficiency debt, if applicable;
 - l. The amount of money remitted to the City of related to any outstanding parking penalties or fees;
 - m. Any debt remaining after the vehicle was released or sold; and
 - n. The amount of money returned to the owner of the vehicle, if applicable.
1. Documents that show all fees or other penalties charged to vehicle owners by the City or the City's agents or contractors when a vehicle is towed.
 2. All policies and procedures regarding payment plans for unpaid parking tickets, including:
 3. Whether there is a deadline for enrolling an unpaid parking ticket;
 4. Whether there is a cap on the amount of unpaid parking penalties that can be enrolled in a payment plan;
 5. What income limits or other criteria are used to determine whether a vehicle owner qualifies for a low-income or indigent payment plan;
 6. Any policies regarding when a vehicle owner misses a payment deadline; and
 7. Any policies regarding the transmittal or recall of an itemization of parking penalties from the DMV pursuant to Vehicle Code 4760.
 8. Copies of all public information about payment plans for unpaid parking tickets, including flyers, notices, and applications.
 9. All data available about participation in parking ticket payment plans in 2018 through the present, including:
 10. The number of applications or requests for a payment plan;
 11. The number of payment plans that were approved, and the number of tickets and total amount of parking penalties enrolled in each plan;
 12. The number of payment plan applications or requests that were denied and the reason for the denial;
 13. The number of payment plans that were successfully completed;
 14. The number of payment plans that were not completed and whether the unpaid parking tickets were submitted to the DMV.
 15. For each year from 2018 through the present, the aggregate number of parking citations issued, the amount of parking penalties collected, the number of late fees assessed, the amount of parking penalties that

are outstanding, and the average length of time each ticket was outstanding.

16. For each year from 2018 through the present year, the aggregate amount spent by the City on parking enforcement.
17. For each year from 2018 through the present year, the aggregate amount spent by the City collecting unpaid parking citations, including any amounts charged by or maintained by the DMV.

We ask that you release to us the documents requested above without delay, and in any event

within the 10-day deadline mandated by Government Code section 7922.535. If the material responsive to one request is ready, but the City will need significantly more time to gather materials on other questions, please forward what is ready as soon as possible. We are also available to meet and confer to discuss alternatives if any of the requests do not correspond with available data. Also, if portions of the documents are exempt from disclosure, please provide the non-exempt portions. Please send the response and any responsive documents in electronic format to mflood@lccrsf.org.

If you believe that the records are in fact exempt from disclosure, please provide a written

response setting forth the legal authority on which you rely in failing to disclose each document. In addition, please provide us with any documents that support this position.

WCLP and LCCRSF are non-profit organizations dedicated to public service. We therefore request that you waive any fees that would normally be applied to a public records request. In addition, we request that any records maintained in electronic format be provided in that same format, to avoid copying costs. However, should you be unable to do so, WCLP will reimburse the City for the direct costs of copying these records (if you elect to charge for copying) plus postage. If the City anticipates that cost of duplication or any other cost of production will exceed \$50, or that the time needed to copy the records will delay their release, please contact us so that we can arrange to inspect the document or decide which documents we wish to have copied or produced.

If I can provide any clarification that will help identify responsive documents or focus this request, please contact me at: (415) 234-0784. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

[Show less](#)**Timeline****Documents****Message from requester**

Requester + Staff

Hello,

Is there someone I can speak with about this request?

Thank you.

Best,

Maddie

June 21, 2023, 2:27pm by the requester

**Message to requester**

Requester + Staff

Hello,

A large portion of this request will require compiling records of a contracted third party. Per their data retention policy, they can only provide 5 years historical data. However, due to the large size of data involved, this will require developer hours to pull the requested information. They have identified the scope of work involved and indicate the number of developer hours to pull the data with a rough estimate of about \$7,000 for the 40 programming hours (\$175/hour). The records will not include any data requested about sold, unclaimed, or auctioned vehicles.

In order to proceed in fulfillment of this request, you must indicate that you are agreeable to the fee. Once you confirm, you will receive an invoice which must be paid prior to production of the data.

Best regards

May 5, 2023, 2:52pm by Staff

**Message to requester**

Requester + Staff

Thank you for submitting your CPRA records request to LADOT's Records Management Section. This letter is a response to your request for access to public records, which was received by LADOT on April 12, 2023. LADOT is in the process of reviewing your request and compiling the associated records – consistent with direction from the LA City Attorney's Office. LADOT anticipates having your response (or an update of the progress of compiling and reviewing the records if it will take longer) by May 8, 2023.

The copy cost will be \$0.10 per page, unless the requested document has an established statutory fee. LADOT will notify you of the copy cost and will send you the records upon receipt of payment. If you prefer to pick up the records from the office, you may submit payment at that time.

April 24, 2023, 3:46pm by Staff



Department assignment

Public

Department of Transportation (DOT)

April 12, 2023, 3:25pm by the requester



Request opened

Public

Request received via web

April 12, 2023, 3:25pm by the requester