

Aaron Stevenson

From: Aaron Stevenson <police@eternalvigilance.net>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 11:05 PM
To: 'Milton S Franklin'
Subject: RE: FOIA request for records

Chief Franklin,

I disagree. The Virginia Freedom of Information Act contains the following provision:

For the purposes of the provisions of this chapter applicable to access to public records, [...] private police departments as defined in §9.1-101 shall be considered public bodies and, except as otherwise expressly provided by law, shall have the same obligations to disclose public records as other custodians of public records. Virginia Code §2.2-3701, "Public body".

Although Bridgewater College is a private institution, its police department is defined by VFOIA to be a public body and it is obligated to respond to a request for records. I urge you to reconsider your position.

- Aaron Stevenson

From: Milton S Franklin <mfranklin@bridgewater.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 12:35 PM
To: Aaron Stevenson <police@eternalvigilance.net>
Subject: FOIA request for records

Dear Aaron –

I received your request for the policy manual of the Bridgewater College Police and Safety Department under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). As a private institution of higher education, the College is not subject to FOIA, and my office will not be supplying the policy manual as you requested.

Milton S. Franklin, Jr., M.A., VaPEM, CPTED
Chief of Police
Direct Phone: 540-828 5761

From: Aaron Stevenson <police@eternalvigilance.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2023 5:48 PM
To: Milton S Franklin <mfranklin@bridgewater.edu>
Subject: FOIA request for records

You don't often get email from police@eternalvigilance.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Virginia Code §2.2-3700 et seq.), I request the policy manual of the Bridgewater College Police and Safety Department.

If the requested records exist in electronic form, I ask that they be supplied in that format to this e-mail address. I ask that all fees for this request be waived, because the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of a law enforcement organization. If you intend to impose any fees, I ask that you supply a cost estimate prior to the production of any records.

Sincerely,
Aaron Stevenson
Vinton, VA