

From: Rob Burdess <robb@newtongov.org>
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 8:07 AM
To: 'Michael Merritt'
Subject: RE: Request for Records in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22.7(5)

Mr. Merritt,
Your request is being handled by our contracted City Attorney at Brick Gentry Law Firm. Please contact them with your questions regarding these requests.

Rob Burdess
Chief of Police
Newton Police Department
101 W 4th St S
Newton, IA 50208
641-791-0850
robb@newtongov.org | www.newtongov.org



*****CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE*****

NOTICE: Subject to the requirements of the Iowa Open Records Act, this message and accompanying documents are covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. Subsection 2510-252, as amended, and contains information intended for the specified individual(s) only. This information may be confidential. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error and that any review, dissemination, copying, or the taking of any action based on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by e-mail, and delete the original message. Thank you.

From: Michael Merritt <pyrebird@castlephoenix.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 4:41 PM
To: Rob Burdess <robb@newtongov.org>
Cc: Chris Wing <ChrisW@newtongov.org>; Ron Cook <ronc@newtongov.org>
Subject: Request for Records in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22.7(5)

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Chief Burdess,

I requested ALL Iowa Incident Reports from your department months ago, including my name, and I have yet to receive them. I have received correspondence from your lawyer stumbling over a request for, if I remember correctly, several

thousand dollars in fees for requested records which I will be dealing with next week. In the meantime, it is my expectation to have the Iowa Incident Report portion of my request printed and ready for me to pick up prior to the close of business today for the Newton, IA Police Department. Chief Tupper of the Marshalltown, IA Police Department had the decency to provide all of his Iowa Incident Reports and my name card listing all incidents regarding myself at no cost. These Iowa Incident reports included all of the documented false allegations and zero evidence the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church and Hope United Methodist Church utilized in their attempt to criminalize me after I filed a complaint against this church regarding sexual misconduct in 2018. This is the same situation your officers escorted the Marshalltown, IA Police Department to my door in June 2019. Chief Tupper of the Marshalltown, IA Police Department has my respect because he has shown me he is not a part of that paradigm of injustice that impacted my life. When I requested transparency, he provided it.

I think you would find my patience and forgiveness toward your department would be more forthcoming if you had the decency to meet with me when your presence is requested. If the leadership of the Newton, IA Police department picks and chooses which citizens they talk to and which they ignore when their presence is requested, this could be considered evidence of prejudice. Prejudice is the garden in which discrimination grows. In the current cultural climate regarding how law enforcement is perceived in the national news and on social media, I do not believe this is the perception you want or should be promoting.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
Founder: phoenixharbor.com
Creative Writer/Musician
Information Warfare Specialist
Information Systems Manager
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Newton, IA 50208
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“The study of Ethics is a pursuit of understanding the philosophical nature of right and wrong in its most perfect form.

A society’s justice system is an ever-evolving pursuit of that perfection.

Corruption is the cultural, political, or personal bias that overrules and interferes with that system.”

Pyrebird