

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS **EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Department of Criminal Justice Information Services

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Charles D. Baker | Karyn E. Polito

Daniel Bennett Lieutenant Governor | Secretary of Public Safety and Security | Acting Commissioner

James F. Slater, III

July 2, 2015

Brooke Williams Reporter, NECIR MuckRock News **DEPT MR 18201** P.O. Box 55819 Boston, MA 02205

Dear Ms. Williams:

I am writing in response to the public records request submitted by fax on June 18, 2015 to the Massachusetts Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS).

In your correspondence you submitted a request for the following information:

- (1) An electronic copy of any and all open warrants in the Warrant Management System database as of the date this request is fulfilled. This request includes but is not limited to the database fields containing the following information: warrant unique identification number; date warrant was initially issued; offense or offenses for which the warrant was issued; offender's name, race and gender; type(s) of charge(s), attempts(s) to serve warrant; agency or agencies that attempted to serve warrant; dates of attempt(s) to serve warrant; agency or agencies that issued warrant; any and all notes fields; and any and all additional fields in the Warrant Management System not included in this list.
- (2) A copy of the data dictionary or other such document describing the contents of each field in the Warrant Management System.
- (3) Any and all communication, including but not limited to emails, letters, faxes and memos, that refers to a backlog in the Warrant Management System.
- (4) Any and all communication, including but not limited to emails, letters, faxes and memos, that refers to an individual who was/is believed to be involved in a crime and who has/had one or more outstanding warrants.

Below please find responses to each of your requests in the order presented in your correspondence.

(1)Massachusetts warrants are entered into the Warrant Management System (WMS) by the issuing court and are maintained in a database owned and operated by the Massachusetts Trial Court. As such, DCJIS is not the custodian of the records contained in WMS and, therefore does not have the authority to release this information pursuant to a public records request under M.G.L. c. 66, § 10. A request for information submitted into the WMS must be directed to the Court(s) that entered the data.

Furthermore, be advised disclosure of warrant information in the WMS to the public is specifically exempt by statute pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 4,§7(a) and M.G.L. c. 276, § 23A which states in relevant part, "...All warrants appearing in the warrant management system shall be accessible through the criminal justice information system, maintained by the department of criminal justice information services to law enforcement agencies and the registry of motor vehicles." As such, DCJIS is not authorized to provide access to WMS except as authorized by M.G.L. c. 276, § 23A.

- (2) Please be advised, the DCJIS does not possess a data dictionary or other similar document for the WMS system and as such possess no documents responsive to your request.
- (3) The DCJIS possesses no documents responsive to your request. After a review, the DCJIS found that it does not possess and emails, letters, faxes, memos or other types of communications referring to a backlog in the WMS.
- (4) The DCJIS possess no documents responsive to your request. After a review, the DCJIS found that it does not possess emails, letters, faxes and memos that refer to an individual who was/is believed to be involved in a crime and who has/had one or more outstanding warrants.

If you object to this response, you may, pursuant to G.L. c. 66, § 10(b) and 950 CMR 32.08(2), appeal this determination to the Public Records Division of the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Agapi Koulouris General Counsel