

Office of the Attorney General

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MIKE HILGERS ATTORNEY GENERAL LESLIE S. DONLEY
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 4, 2025

Malik Stelly

RE: Public Record Matter Involving Douglas County Communications

Our File No. 20251134

Dear Mr. Stelly:

This letter is in response to your petition received by this office on October 20, 2025, in which you sought our assistance in obtaining certain records from Douglas County Communications (DCC). We forwarded a copy of your petition to Deputy County Attorney William E. Rooney III upon receipt and requested a response, which he provided on October 30 and November 3. We considered this matter under the Nebraska Public Records Statutes (NPRS), Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-712 to 84-712.09 (2024).

According to your petition, you sent a public records request to DCC on September 30, 2025, seeking "(1) All records from SST. Inc. 'Shotspotter' for Shotspotter Flex ID 149135, and (2) Policy and procedure records for [DCC] receiving of Shotspotter records from SST. Inc. 'Shotspotter.'" DCC staff responded to your request by memorandum dated October 7. Staff informed you DCC had provided you all Shotspotter records it had, and had no records pertaining to "Shotspotter Flex ID 149135." Lastly, staff advised that "[d]epartment policies and procedures are not public record."

On November 3, the undersigned received a letter addressed to you from Mr. Rooney, in which he provided you a portion of the "Douglas County 911 Dispatch Policies and Procedures" (Policy). Mr. Rooney indicated that certain portions of the Policy

contain login information for the ShotSpotter system as well as details relating to law enforcement agencies who partner with Douglas County 911 concerning response times, response tactics, and other operational information which, if divulged, would create a substantial likelihood of endangering public safety.

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Accordingly, those portions of the Policy were withheld under the exceptions to disclosure in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05(3) and (9), pertaining to proprietary or commercial information and "[i]nformation solely pertaining to protection of the security of public property and persons on or within public property," respectively.

As we discussed in our last disposition to you dated October 20, 2025, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05 gives public bodies the discretion to withhold public records falling within the various categories of records listed so long as those records have not been "publicly disclosed in an open court, open administrative proceeding, or open meeting or disclosed by a public entity pursuant to its duties" We find Mr. Rooney's description of the withheld portions supports their withholding under subsections (3) and (9). There is also no evidence to suggest that DCC has made the Policy publicly available, which would restrict its ability to withhold any portion of it.

Since you now have or will soon receive records which formed the basis for your petition, no further action by this office is necessary and we are closing this file. If you disagree with our handling of this petition, you are free to consider the other remedies available to you under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.03.

Sincerely,

MIKE HILGERS Attorney General

Leslie S. Donley

Assistant Attorney General

c: William E. Rooney III

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