

March 9, 2020

Via e-mail to gobrien@taftlaw.com and wdoyle@taftlaw.com

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Re: *State ex rel. Mary Jane Horton v. Michael Kilbane and the City of Independence*,
Supreme Court of Ohio Case No. 2020-0348

Dear Counsel:

Our office represents the relator in this matter. Attached is a courtesy copy of the verified petition for writ of mandamus that we filed today regarding Ms. Horton's January 16, 2019 public-records request regarding the City of Independence's traffic-ticket quota.

After conducting a thorough investigation, it is clear that the City and its police chief deliberately failed to provide complete, unaltered responsive records and misled Ms. Horton regarding the existence of another.

It is deeply troubling that the City and its police chief would withhold—and even tamper with—official records about the City's traffic-ticket quota when a concerned citizen made a formal request for them under R.C. 149.43.

The failure to appropriately respond to Ms. Horton's public-records request may constitute tampering with records (R.C. 2913.42(A)(1)-(2)), tampering with evidence (R.C. 2921.12(A)(1)-(2)), interfering with civil rights (R.C. 2921.45(A)), intimidation (R.C. 2921.03(A)), and dereliction of duty (R.C. 2921.44(E)). As detailed in the complaint, the failure to notify her that the reprimand to Officer Dalton was redacted also violates the City's own public-records policy.

Ms. Horton respectfully requests that the City arrange for an independent criminal investigation into what appears to be a deliberate failure to respond to her public-records request as required by law. She asks that the City kindly notify her regarding the results of the criminal investigation and what, if any, steps the City plans to take to discipline those responsible.

Very truly yours,



Ashlie Case Sletvold

Attachment