



May 21, 2025

*Via U.S. Mail*

Rankin County Sheriff’s Department
Attn: Public Records Request Official
221 N. Timber St.
Brandon, MS 39042

**REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RECORDS**

Dear Records Custodian:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi and American Civil Liberties Union Foundation (together, “ACLU”), this letter serves as a public records request pursuant to Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983 (“PRA”), Miss. Code Ann. § 25-61-1, et seq., for records that are in the possession of the Rankin County Sheriff’s Department or its employees (collectively, “RCSD”). This request seeks records concerning RCSD’s policies, practices, and procedures related to use of force, racial discrimination, and abuse of position.

1. **The ACLU requests the following public records[[1]](#footnote-2) from May 21, 2024, through the date this request is submitted:**
2. Records containing the total number of, respectively, Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Use of Force Reports (*see* RCSD Policy and Procedures Manual (**“P&P”**) No. 4.02).[[2]](#footnote-3)
3. Records containing the total number of deployments of Conducted Energy Devices (“CEDs”) (*see, e.g.*, P&P No. 4.01 (defining CED)).[[3]](#footnote-4)
4. All data maintained by the RCSD related to Complaints of Biased Policing, Racial Profiling, Racial Discrimination, or Racial Harassment pursuant to P&P Nos. 3.05[[4]](#footnote-5) and 2.06, or reports containing such data.
5. **The ACLU requests the following records concerning Use of Force incidents:**

1. Level 2 Use of Force Reports (*see* P&P No. 4.02) for fifty (50) separate incidents that are closest in time to, and pre-date May 21, 2025.
2. Level 3 Use of Force Reports (*see* P&P No. 4.02) for fifty (50) separate incidents that are closest in time to, and pre-date May 21, 2025.
3. Records containing the outcomes of fifty (50) closed Compliance Director Force Reviews conducted pursuant to P&P No. 4.02 (including reviews of Level 3 Use of Force events and random audits of Level 2 Use of Force events) that are closest in time to, and pre-date May 21, 2025.
4. Reports regarding fifty (50) separate deployments of CEDs (also known as “Taser Logs”)[[5]](#footnote-6) that are closest in time to, and pre-date May 21, 2025, and corresponding Incident Reports for each such CED deployment.
5. **The ACLU requests the following public records regarding RCSD policies, procedures, or rules:**
6. Full copies of the RCSD Policy and Procedure Manual[[6]](#footnote-7) including all policies (P&P Nos. 1.01 - 8.02 or end of manual) for the following time periods:
	1. Current in-use version;
	2. Version in use prior to November 20, 2023; and
	3. Version in use between November 20, 2023, and September 14, 2024.
7. Records containing RCSD’s policies, procedures, or rules—outside of and/or in addition to the RCSD Policy and Procedure Manual—for identifying and addressing possible violations by RCSD employees and/or officers regarding (A) Use of Force (*see* P&P Nos. 4.01, 4.02), (B) Racial Discrimination, Racial Harassment, Racial Profiling, or Biased Policing (*see* P&P Nos. 2.06, 3.05), and (C) Abuse of Position (*see* P&P No. 1.13) for the following time periods:
	1. Current in-use version(s);
	2. Version(s) in use prior to November 20, 2023; and
	3. Version(s) in use between November 20, 2023, and September 14, 2024.

The ACLU seeks only non-privileged, non-exempt, public records in accordance with Miss. Code. §25-61-1, et seq. The ACLU does not seek personal identifying information of witnesses or victims, other personal information protected from disclosure, or any other records exempt from disclosure under the PRA.

If this records request is denied in whole or in part, please indicate (1) whether the record(s) in question exist and, if so, (2) the statutory exemption(s) you are claiming prevents their release. With respect to asserted exemptions, please provide an explanation, including the statutory or factual basis, for the determination that the requested material is exempt from disclosure. In addition, this request is made with the assumption that you will redact any such information that, without redaction, would otherwise preclude you from complying fully with this request. For any redactions, please provide the specific exemption you are claiming for each instance of redaction. In addition, ensure the redactions are clearly delineated and identified so that a redaction can be differentiated from a blank section of the record. This request is ongoing, so should any requested materials that were initially considered exempt become non-exempt, please notify us.

Please provide the requested records in electronic form if it is feasible and economical to do so. E-mails transmitting less than 10 MB of data may be sent to afrankel@aclu.org, or arrangements can be made to supply you with a CD, flash drive, or email address capable of receiving larger quantities of data. If the responsive data is not available in electronic form, please send it by first class mail.

If there are a significant number of documents responsive to this request, we ask that you produce documents on a rolling basis, rather than waiting until all documents are assembled to produce them.

The ACLU does not seek records for any commercial purpose. Because this request involves a matter of public concern and because it is made on behalf of nonprofit § 501(c)(3) organizations dedicated to the protection of civil rights and liberties, we ask that you decline to impose costs. If you decide to impose costs and such costs will exceed $100, please contact me for approval prior to completing the request.

Please comply with this request within seven (7) business days from the receipt of this request. *See* Miss. Code § 25-61-5(1)(a).

We are available to answer any questions or clarifications you may have about this request, and will readily work with you to establish a process for fulfilling this request in an efficient and economical manner. Please contact Allison Frankel to discuss this request.

Thank you for your time and assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Allison Frankel

Allison Frankel

Jenn Rolnick Borchetta

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1. *See, e.g.,* Miss. Code. Ann. § 25-61-3 (“‘Public records’ shall mean all books, records, papers, accounts, letters, maps, photographs, films, cards, tapes, recordings or reproductions thereof, and any other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, having been used, being in use, or prepared, possessed or retained for use in the conduct, transaction or performance of any business, transaction, work, duty or function of any public body, or required to be maintained by any public body.”) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. All RCSD P&P citations refer to the 2023-2024 RCSD Policy and Procedures Manual, which is available at https://www.rankincounty.org/egov/documents/1701123364\_55782.pdf. Capitalized terms used herein but not otherwise defined have the meanings set forth in the RCSD’s Policies and Procedures. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. *See also* Brian Howey & Nate Rosenfeld, *How a ‘Goon Squad’ of Deputies Got Away With Years of Brutalit*y, N.Y. Times (updated Mar. 27, 2025),<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/30/us/rankin-county-mississippi-sheriff.html> (“Every time a Taser is fired, the device keeps a record of it. In Rankin County, deputies upload this data to a computer, compiling detailed departmentwide logs that allow supervisors to monitor deputy Taser use.”). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. *See* P&P No. 3.05 (“The RCSD will maintain data relating specifically to complaints of biased policing. Information shall be provided to the Sheriff in a manner most suitable for administrative review, problem identification, and development of appropriate corrective actions.”). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. *See supra* note 3 (describing Taser Logs). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. The 2023-2024 version of this manual containing only P&P Nos. 1.01 - 4.02 is currently available on the RCSD website: https://www.rankincounty.org/egov/documents/1701123364\_55782.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)