



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Office of the General Treasurer

Seth Magaziner
General Treasurer

April 14, 2015

VIA EMAIL ONLY [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RE: Public Records Request

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

We write in response to your April 1, 2015 request for information pursuant to the Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act (APRA). Your specific request is noted below along with our corresponding response:

Under the authority of the Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act, RIGL 38-2, Stephen Beale, a freelance reporter, requests the following information:

Request 1. *The amount of money in the victims compensation fund at the start of FY 2014.*

Response: The total Crime Victim Compensation Program (CVCP) funds available at July 1, 2013: \$2,898,800.00

Request 2. *The amount of money left in the fund at the end of FY 2014.*

Response: The total CVCP funds at July 1, 2014: \$2,312,049.00

Request 3. *The total amount of money paid out in victim's compensation during FY 2014*

Response: The total CVCP paid in Victim Compensation in Fiscal Year 2014: \$1,655,873.64.

Request 4. Amount disbursed: *The total amount paid out to victims from the victims fund for fiscal years 2013, 2014, 2015 if available. Please specify whether info is available on a calendar or fiscal year basis.*

Response: See enclosed Victims of Crime Compensation Program Annual Performance Reports for Fiscal Years 2013-2014. You will note that the reports are not signed as they are filed electronically and a signature is no longer necessary. Please be advised that the State's Fiscal year runs July through June, while the Federal Fiscal year is October through September.

Request 5. Number of recipients: *The number of individual recipients for FY 2009 to FY 2015.*

Response: See enclosed Victims of Crime Compensation Program Annual Performance Reports for Fiscal Years 2013-2014. Fiscal Years 2009-2012 were previously provided to you on January 30,

2014 and are included again for your convenience. Fiscal Year 2015 is still in progress and therefore there are no responsive documents at this time.

Request 6. Recipient names: *The names of the recipients for above.*

Response: The recipients of compensation from the CVCP are victims of violent crime and information provided by a victim is required to be kept confidential pursuant to federal laws 42 U.S.C. §10604(d). Additionally, a victim's right to privacy outweighs the public interest in this instance, and is therefore exempt pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §38-2-2(A)(1)(b) as disclosure of victim names would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Request 7. Recipient residences: *If the recipient names cannot be released, can the community and state of residence for the victims be released?*

Response: City/town and state of victim residence would be deemed public. However, the CVCP does not, in the regular course of business, maintain a list containing the information requested. Some of this information may be found in the enclosed reports:

- Report listing total amount of claims paid by location where crime occurred and type of crime; and
- Report listing number of claims by police department.

Request 8. Eligibility requirements: *I am aware of the rules governing the victims' fund. I have attached the document I found online to make sure this was so. My question is, are there any other eligibility requirements or disqualifying factors not listed in the rules and regulation document? If so, please state what those are? (For example, citizenship status, housing status, or past credit history?)*

Response: All eligibility requirements or disqualifying factors related to the CVCP are designated in the Rules and Regulations pertaining to the CVCP. Enclosed please find a PDF copy of the current Crime Victim Compensation Rules and Regulations.

Request 9. Compensation records: *Are any of the records victims, their providers, or employers required to show a matter of public record, even if personally identifiable private information, such as the names and Social Security numbers are blacked out?*

Response: Rhode Island General Laws §12-25-30.1 prohibits the release of this information unless specifically authorized by the application or law and is reflected in CVCP Rules and Regulations §1.12 which states:

“All medical records, mental health counseling records, psychiatric records, employment information, personal financial information and investigative records received, obtained or maintained by the office in connection with any application for compensation shall be maintained as confidential investigative material, and shall not be released or disclosed to any person or entity whatsoever, except as authorized by the applicant or as otherwise provided by law. The application and the notice of award or denial shall be deemed public records, unless otherwise provided by law.”

April 14, 2015

Page 3 of 3

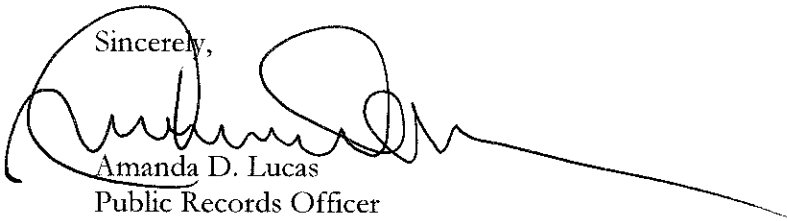
Request 10. Cases of fraud. Have there been any cases of fraudulent victims' applications from fiscal years 2009 to 2015? If so, how many cases were there each year, how much total money was fraudulently obtained, and of that total, how much has been recovered by the state so far?

Response: There are no records responsive to this request.

If you contend you have been denied access to public records, pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §38-2-8, you may appeal this decision to Jeffrey M. Padwa, General Counsel for the Rhode Island General Treasurer's Office, 50 Service Avenue, 2nd Floor, Warwick, RI 02886. You may also file a complaint with the Department of the Attorney General, 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903 or the Rhode Island Superior Court of the county where the records are maintained.

Additional information regarding the Access to Public Records Act may be found at <http://www.riag.ri.gov/civil/opengovernment>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda D. Lucas', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Amanda D. Lucas
Public Records Officer