



December 14, 2021

Via email

Massachusetts State Police
Records Access Officer
msp.rao@state.ma.us

Re: Public Records Request Pertaining to the Massachusetts State Police Use of Drones and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Dear Supervisor of Records,

This is a request under the Public Records Law, G.L. c. 66, § 10, on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (“ACLUM”). ACLUM seeks records pertaining to the use of drones and unmanned aerial vehicles (“UAVs”) by the Massachusetts State Police (“MSP”).

Please send us the following records, created on or after March 1, 2020, unless a different date is noted:

1. All communications to and from officers and employees of the MSP pertaining to the use of drones or UAVs, including text messages and emails;
2. All contracts, purchase agreements, and invoices pertaining to drones and UAVs by the MSP, dated before, on, or after March 1, 2020;
3. Records pertaining to the use of drones and UAVs, including logs, notes, police reports, incident reports, intelligence reports, and any other record that shows who operated or used drones, how and when, and for what reasons; and
4. Manuals, policies, and procedures governing the use of drones and UAVs, including records showing how the decision to deploy a drone or similar UAV is made, dated before, on, or after March 1, 2020.

Please note that ACLUM does not request any personally identifiable information or any personal data pertaining to individuals.

Because this request involves a matter of public concern and is made on behalf of a nonprofit organization, we ask that you waive any fees. ACLUM is a nonprofit §501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the protection of civil rights and liberties for all persons in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As the state’s affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLUM is part of a nationwide network of advocates dedicated to defending and expanding the civil liberties of all.

If you decide not to waive fees, we request that you permit us to examine, at our election, the responsive documents before determining which portions to copy. We prefer the documents in electronic format.

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If you believe that some portion of the documents requested are exempt from disclosure or require redaction, please release any reasonably segregable portions that are not exempt. In addition, please note the applicable statutory exemption and explain why it applies to the redacted portions. As you know, a custodian of public records shall comply with a request within ten days after receipt.

Finally, please remember that a request that requires the extraction of categories of information from an existing database does not impose burdens on public record holders that exceed what is required under the public records law.

If you have questions about this request, please contact me at 617.482.3170 x402 or efalcon@aclum.org

Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to your response.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emiliano Falcon-Morano". The signature is stylized and includes a date "12/14/21" written below the main signature.

Emiliano Falcon-Morano
Policy Counsel
Technology for Liberty Program
ACLU of Massachusetts