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## LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT PURCHASING & CONTRACTS UNIT PHONE: 702.828.5788



## **REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RECORDS**

PURSUANT TO THE NEVADA PUBLIC RECORDS LAW, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING THE DOCUMENTS LISTED BELOW. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A FEE FOR COPIES OF \$0.28 PER PAGE. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT I CAN VIEW THE DOCUMENTS BY APPOINTMENT. THE BELOW INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE REQUESTOR.

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Request for Public Records – LVMPD

Detailed request:

I respectfully request all original high-resolution lossless copies of crime scene and other pictures of the Room 32-135 decedent referenced in the LVMPD Criminal Report regarding event 171001-3519.

Per national standard LEA criminal investigative technique, there should be numerous images of the decedent in his discovered position. These images should be close range, high resolution, brightly lit, and cover at least anterior and lateral projections.

On the night of 1 Oct 2017, a high-resolution image was leaked to the public showing a full anterior view of the decedent, and the authenticity of that picture was corroborated by the Undersheriff Kevin McMahill in a press conference in the following days. If that was an official LVMPD image, its formal release is requested, as well as all other pictures of the Room 32-135 body.

To date, the single image released by LVMPD is a low-resolution distant picture, found on page 90 of the associated FIT report. I request the original high-resolution lossless copy of that picture, as well as all other pictures of the decedent. The LVMPD was compelled by the Court to release all data regarding the atrocity, and as such the crime scene images of the 32-1.35 decedent are required for public review.

Additionally, I respectfully request any images that were taken during evaluation and removal of the body on site, and images and radiographs from the Clark County Medical Examiner's Office, if copies of those records were later furnished to the LVMPD.

Given that the LVMP has released volumes of other material replete with gratuitous violence and victim injuries, and that the LVMPD considers the matter closed, there is no justifiable reason to withhold the requested images from the public.

Most respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH LOMBARDO, Sheriff

Partners with the Community

VIA PRU Portal

September 18, 2020

Re: Nevada Public Records Act Request NPR

Dear 2

This letter is in response to your public records request submitted to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department - Public Records Unit (PRU). It is our understanding that you are requesting the following:

- Lossless high-resolution copies of crime scene and other pictures of the room 32-135 decedent referenced in the LVMPD Criminal Report regarding event #171001-3519
- Any images that were taken during evaluation and removal of the body on site, and images and radiographs from the Clark County Medical Examiner's Office, if copies were later furnished to LVMPD.

As you have pointed out, various media outlets initiated a lawsuit against LVMPD for access to records pertaining to 1 October. Enclosed for your convenience is a copy of the Disclosure Order. In particular, there was no request for photographs related to 1 October. Accordingly, the Disclosure does not govern the records you now seek.

The Nevada Supreme Court recognizes a privacy interest in records that specifically pertain to individuals, such as photographs of the deceased. See Clark Cty. Office of Coroner/Med. Exam'r v. Las Vegas Review-Journal, 136 Nev. 44, 56, 458 P.3d 1048, 1057-58 (2020) (citing Accuracy in Media, Inc. v. Nat'l Park Serv., 194 F.3d 120, 123 (D.C. Cir. 1999) (explaining that the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) protects against "unwarranted 'invasions' of privacy" and that such invasions "trigger[] a weighing of the public interest against the private harm inflicted," and concluding that "the release of photos of the decedent at the scene of his death and autopsy qualifies as such an invasion")). Under the privacy interest balancing test, the government must establish that disclosure implicates a personal privacy interest that is nontrivial or more than de minimis. Id. at 55, 458 P.3d at 1057. As indicated above, there is a significant privacy interest in the photographs of a decedent. See also Nat'l Archives & Records Admin. v. Favish, 541 U.S. 157. 170 (2004) (concluding that the photographs of a decedent were properly withheld). If the government shows that the privacy interest at stake is nontrivial, as LVMPD as demonstrated here, the requester must then show that the public interest sought to be advanced is a significant one and the information sought is likely to advance that interest. Clark Cty. Office of Coroner/Med. *Exam'r*, at 55-56, 458 P.3d at 1057.



Here, the burden shifts to you to demonstrate a public interest sought to be advanced is a significant one and the photographs sought is likely to advance that interest. To the extent that the public has an interest in the death of the 1 October shooter, that interest has been satisfied by the photograph produced in the LVMPD FIT Report. Accordingly, LVMPD denies your request for death images of Mr. Paddock.

Sincerely,

Public Records Unit Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department I respectfully request the evidence logs pertaining to all original highresolution lossless copies of crime scene and other pictures of the Room 32-135 decedent referenced in the LVMPD Criminal Report regarding event 171001-3519.

While LVMPD has presently declined to release the actual photographs, barring a compelling argument for public interest, the NV Court specifically ordered release of all evidence logs. Therefore, the public requests that evidence logs, logs, lists, charts, or other indexes of acquired crime scene images be released to the public.

Additionally, I respectfully request any logs or records of images that were taken during evaluation and removal of the body on site, and logs or records of images and radiographs from the Clark County Medical Examiner's Office, if copies of those records were later furnished to the LVMPD.

So to clarify, I'm asking you to please tell me which pictures of the decedent you have, in the form of evidence logs, lists, graphs, charts, file numbers, indexes, etc. This list should include crime scene images, transfer images, and autopsy images as referenced in records request NPR

Thank you

JOSEPH LOMBARDO, Sheriff

Partners with the Community

**VIA PRU Portal** 

September 25, 2020

RE: Nevada Public Records Act request NPR

Dear

This correspondence is in response your Nevada Public Records Act request for the following:

- I respectfully request the evidence logs pertaining to all original high-resolution lossless copies of crime scene and other pictures of the Room 32-135 decedent referenced in the LVMPD Criminal Report regarding event 171001-3519.
- Additionally, I respectfully request any logs or records of images that were taken during evaluation and removal of the body on site, and logs or records of images and radiographs from the Clark County Medical Examiner's Office, if copies of those records were later furnished to the LVMPD.
- So to clarify, I'm asking you to please tell me which pictures of the decedent you have, in the form
  of evidence logs, lists, graphs, charts, file numbers, indexes, etc. This list should include crime
  scene images, transfer images, and autopsy images as referenced in records request NPR202000006844.

After diligently researching your request it was determined that LVMPD is not in possession of any evidence logs, logs, records of images, lists, graphs, charts, file numbers, indexes, etc. of crime scene photos taken of the decedent or of room 32-135. LVMPD has no records responsive to your request.

Additionally, we suggest contacting federal authorities.

Sincerely,

Public Records Unit Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

