

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN
POLICE DEPARTMENT,

Appellant,

vs.

THE CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE
REPORTING, INC., A CALIFORNIA
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION,

Respondents.

Electronically Filed
Jan 30 2019 10:11 a.m.
Elizabeth A. Brown
Clerk of Supreme Court
Supreme Court Case No. 77965
District Court Case No. A773885

**DOCKETING STATEMENT
CIVIL APPEALS**

GENERAL INFORMATION

All appellants not in proper person must complete this docketing statement. NRAP 14(a). The purpose of the docketing statement is to assist the Court in screening jurisdiction, classifying cases for en banc, panel, or expedited treatment, compiling statistical information and identifying parties and their counsel.

WARNING

This statement must be completed fully, accurately and on time. NRAP 14(c). The Court may impose sanctions on counsel or appellant if it appears that the information provided is incomplete or inaccurate. *Id.* Failure to fill out the statement completely or to file it in a timely manner constitutes grounds for the imposition of sanctions, including a fine and/or dismissal of the appeal.

A complete list of the documents that must be attached appears as Question 26 on this docketing statement. Failure to attach all required documents will result in the delay of your appeal and may result in the imposition of sanctions.

This court has noted that when attorneys do not take seriously their obligations under NRAP 14 to complete the docketing statement properly and conscientiously, they waste the valuable judicial resources of this court, making the imposition of sanctions appropriate. *See KDI Sylvan Pools v. Workman*, 107 Nev. 340, 344, 810 P.2d 1217, 1220 (1991). Please use tab dividers to separate any attached documents.

1. Judicial District: Eighth Department: 11
County: Clark Judge: Honorable Elizabeth Gonzalez
(previously Honorable Joanna Kishner)
District Ct. Case No.: A-18-773883-W

2. **Attorney filing this docketing statement:**

Attorneys: Nick D. Crosby, Esq. and Jackie V. Nichols, Esq.
Telephone: 702-382-0711
Firm: Marquis Aurbach Coffing
Address: 10001 Park Run Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
Client: Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

If this is a joint statement by multiple appellants, add the names and address of other counsel and the names of their clients on an additional sheet accompanied by a certification that they concur in the filing of this statement.

3. **Attorneys representing respondents:**

Attorneys: Philip R. Erwin, Esq and Samuel R. Mirkovich, Esq.
Telephone: 702-382-5222
Firm: Campbell & Williams
Address: 700 S. Seventh St., Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Client: The Center for Investigative Reporting, Inc.

(List additional counsel on separate sheet if necessary)

4. **Nature of disposition below (check all that apply):**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judgment after bench trial | <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judgment after jury verdict | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of Jurisdiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summary judgment | <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to state a claim |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Default judgment | <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to prosecute |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant/Denial of NRCP 60(b) relief | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant/Denial of injunction | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce decree: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant/Denial of declaratory relief | <input type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Modification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review of agency determination | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other disposition (specify) Order Granting of Respondents' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs |

5. **Does this appeal raise issues concerning any of the following:** N/A.

- ☐ Child Custody
- ☐ Venue
- ☐ Termination of parental rights

6. **Pending and prior proceedings in this court.** List the case name and docket number of all appeals or original proceedings presently or previously pending before this court which are related to this appeal:

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department v. The Center for Investigative Reporting, Inc., Case No. 77617. Current pending appeal from the Writ of Mandamus filed in the same underlying District Court case.

7. **Pending and prior proceedings in other courts.** List the case name, number and court of all pending and prior proceedings in other courts which are related to this appeal (e.g., bankruptcy, consolidated or bifurcated proceedings) and their dates of disposition:

The Center for Investigative Reporting, Inc. v. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, District Court Case A-18-773883-W. This is the underlying District Court case from which this appeal arises.

8. **Nature of the action.** Briefly describe the nature of the action and the result below:

This appeal challenges the District Court's interpretation of NRS 239.011(2) and the award of attorney fees and costs to The Center for Investigative Reporting in a Nevada Public Records Act proceeding.

9. **Issues on appeal.** State concisely the principal issue(s) in this appeal (attach separate sheets as necessary):

- (1) Whether the District Court erred by interpreting NRS 239.011(2) in isolation, instead of in harmony with the statutory scheme, including NRS 239.012.
- (2) Whether the term "damages" in NRS 239.012 includes attorney fees, such that this statute creates a "good faith" exception to an award of attorney fees under NRS 239.011(2).
- (3) Whether the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department acted in good faith in responding to the public record request.
- (4) Whether the District Court erred in its order noticed on January 8, 2019.

10. **Pending proceedings in this court raising the same or similar issues.** If you are aware of any proceeding presently pending before this court which raises the same or similar issues raised in this appeal, list the case name and docket numbers and identify the same or similar issue raised:

Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner v. Las Vegas Review-Journal, Case No. 75095.

11. **Constitutional issues.** If this appeal challenges the constitutionality of a statute, and the state, any state agency, or any officer or employee thereof is not a party to this appeal, have you notified the clerk of this court and the attorney general in accordance with NRAP 44 and NRS 30.130?

☒ N/A

☐ Yes

☐ No

If not, explain:

12. **Other issues.** Does this appeal involve any of the following issues?

☐ Reversal of well-settled Nevada precedent (identify the case(s))

☐ An issue arising under the United States and/or Nevada Constitutions

☒ A substantial issue of first impression

☒ An issue of public policy

☐ An issue where en banc consideration is necessary to maintain uniformity of this court's decisions

☐ A ballot question

If so, explain: This appeal involves an interpretation of NRS 239.011(2) and NRS 239.012, which are within the Nevada Public Records Act.

13. **Assignment to the Supreme Court of Appeals or retention in the Supreme Court.** Briefly set forth whether the matter is presumptively retained by the Supreme Court or assigned to the Court of Appeals under NRAP 17, and cite the subparagraph(s) of the Rule under which the matter falls. If appellant believes that the Supreme Court should retain the case despite its presumptive assignment to the Court of Appeals, identify the specific issue(s) or circumstance(s) that warrant retaining the case, and include an explanation of their importance or significance:

This case should be retained by the Supreme Court according to NRAP 17(a)(10) and (11) because this appeal raises issues of first impression that are of statewide public importance.

14. **Trial.** If this action proceeded to trial, how many days did the trial last? N/A.
Was it a bench or jury trial? N/A.
15. **Judicial Disqualification.** Do you intend to file a motion to disqualify or have a justice recuse him/herself from participation in this appeal? If so, which Justice? No.

TIMELINESS OF NOTICE OF APPEAL

16. **Date of entry of written judgment or order appealed from:** January 7, 2019.
If no written judgment or order was filed in the district court, explain the basis for seeking appellate review:
17. **Date written notice of entry of judgment or order was served.** January 8, 2019.
Was service by: For the January 7, 2019 Order, service was effectuated by:
- ☐ Delivery
- ☒ Mail/electronic/fax
18. **If the time for filing the notice of appeal was tolled by a post-judgment motion (NRCP 50(b), 52(b), or 59)**

N/A.

(a) Specify the type of motion, the date and method of service of the motion, and the date of filing.

- ☐ NRCP 50(b) Date of filing
- ☐ NRCP 52(b) Date of filing
- ☐ NRCP 59 Date of filing

NOTE: Motions made pursuant to NRCP 60 or motions for rehearing or reconsideration may toll the time for filing a notice of appeal. See AA Primo Builders v. Washington, 126 Nev. ___, 245 P.3d 1190 (2010).

(b) Date of entry of written order resolving tolling motion _____.

(c) Date written notice of entry of order resolving tolling motion was served _____.

Was service by:

- ☐ Delivery
- ☐ Mail

19. Date notice of appeal filed: January 16, 2019.

If more than one party has appealed from the judgment or order, list the date each notice of appeal was filed and identify by name the party filing the notice of appeal:

N/A.

20. Specify statute or rule governing the time limit for filing the notice of appeal, e.g., NRAP 4(a) or other:

NRAP 4(a).

SUBSTANTIVE APPEALABILITY

21. Specify the statute or other authority granting this court jurisdiction to review the judgment or order appealed from:

(a)

☐ NRAP 3A(b)(1)

☐ NRS 38.205

☐ NRAP 3A(b)(2)

☐ NRS 233B.150

☐ NRAP 3A(b)(3)

☐ NRS 703.376

☒ Other (specify) NRAP 3A(b)(8).

(b) Explain how each authority provides a basis for appeal from the judgment or order:

The District Court's order awarding fees and costs to The Center for Investigative Reporting is independently appealable as a special order under NRAP 3A(b)(8).

22. List all parties involved in the action or consolidated actions in the district court:

(a) Parties:

Petitioner: The Center for Investigative Reporting, Inc.

Respondent: Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

(b) If all parties in the district court are not parties to this appeal, explain in detail why those parties are not involved in this appeal, e.g., formally dismissed, not served, or other:

N/A.

23. Give a brief description (3 to 5 words) of each party's separate claims, counterclaims, cross-claims or third-party claims, and the date of formal disposition of each claim.

The Center for Investigative Reporting filed Petition for Writ of Mandamus seeking various records associated with the death and criminal investigation of Tupac Shakur.

Appellants contend that these records should not be disclosed based on a variety of privileges. As such, the Parties entered into an agreement related to the production and non-disclosure of records.

As a result of the Parties agreement, the District Court found that the Petition was moot. However, the District Court erroneously determined that the Respondent was a prevailing party, entitling it to seek attorney fees and costs.

The Center for Investigative Reporting filed a motion for attorney fees and costs in the amount of \$56,133.54. On January 7, 2019, the District Court entered an order awarding fees and costs to The Center for Investigative Reporting totaling \$50,402.89 against the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. This order is the subject of the instant appeal.

24. Did the judgment or order appealed from adjudicate ALL the claims alleged below and the rights and liabilities of ALL the parties to the action or consolidated actions below?

☒ Yes

☐ No

25. If you answered "No" to question 24, complete the following:

(a) Specify the claims remaining pending below:

(b) Specify the parties remaining below:

(c) Did the district court certify the judgment or order appealed from as a final judgment pursuant to NRCP 54(b)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

(d) Did the district court make an express determination, pursuant to NRCP 54(b), that there is no just reason for delay and an express direction for the entry of judgment?

☐ Yes

☐ No

26. If you answered “No” to any part of question 25, explain the basis for seeking appellate review (e.g., order is independently appealable under NRAP 3A(b)):

N/A.

27. Attach file-stamped copies of the following documents:

- The latest-filed complaint, counterclaims, cross-claims, and third-party claims
- Any tolling motion(s) and order(s) resolving tolling motion(s)
- Orders of NRCP 41(a) dismissals formally resolving each claim, counterclaims, cross-claims and/or third-party claims asserted in the action or consolidated action below, even if not at issue on appeal
- Any other order challenged on appeal
- Notices of entry for each attached order

Exhibit	Document Description
1	The Center for Investigative Reporting Inc.’s Petition for Writ of Mandamus (filed 05/02/18)
2	Notice of Entry of Order regarding The Center for Investigative Reporting, Inc’s Petition for Writ of Mandamus (filed 11/06/18)
3	Notice of Entry of Order Granting The Center for Investigative Reporting Inc.’s Motion for Attorneys’ Fees and Costs (filed 01/08/19)

VERIFICATION

I declare under penalty of perjury that I have read this docketing statement, that the information provided in this docketing statement is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and that I have attached all required documents to this docketing statement.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police
Department

Name of appellant

Nick D. Crosby, Esq. and Jackie V.
Nichols, Esq.

Name of counsel of record

January 29, 2019

Date

/s/ Jackie V. Nichols

Signature of counsel of record

Clark County, Nevada

State and county where signed

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the 29th day of January, 2019, I served a copy of this completed docketing statement upon all counsel of record:

☐ By personally serving it upon him/her; or

☒ By electronic service in accordance with the Court's Master Service List as follows:

Phillip R. Erwin, Esq.
Samuel R. Mirkovich, Esq.

☒ By mailing it by first class mail with sufficient postage prepaid to the following address(es):

Ara H. Shirinian, Esq.
10651 Capesthorne Way
Las Vegas, NV 89135
Settlement Judge

Dated this 29th day of January, 2019.

/s/ Suzanne Boggs

Signature

EXHIBIT “1”

Steven D. Grierson

CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS
PHILIP R. ERWIN, ESQ. (11563)
pre@cwlawlv.com
SAMUEL R. MIRKOVICH, ESQ. (11662)
srm@cwlawlv.com
700 South Seventh Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone: (702) 382-5222
Facsimile: (702) 382-0540
Attorneys for Petitioner

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE
REPORTING INC.,

Petitioner,

vs.

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE
DEPARTMENT,

Respondent.

CASE NO.: A-18-773883-W
DEPT. NO.: Department 31

DEPARTMENT XXXI
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE 5/15/18 TIME 9:00 am
APPROVED BY JW

**VERIFIED PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS AND INCORPORATED
APPLICATION FOR ORDER AND EXPEDITED HEARING PURSUANT TO
NRS 239.011**

Petitioner The Center for Investigative Reporting Inc., a California nonprofit organization, by and through its counsel, hereby moves this Honorable Court for a writ of mandamus compelling Respondent Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department to produce records and documents as set forth in more detail below related to the September 1996 murder of Tupac Shakur in Las Vegas, Nevada. This petition is brought pursuant NRS 34.160, 239.010, and 239.011, and Petitioner declares that it has no plain, speedy or adequate remedy at law to compel Respondent to produce the records sought.

Petitioner further submits its Application for Order Shortening Time, which is attached as Exhibit "1" and incorporated herein.

PARTIES

1. Petitioner The Center for Investigative Reporting Inc. ("CIR"), a California nonprofit organization, owns and operates *Reveal*, a website, public radio program, and podcast. CIR was founded in 1977 as the nation's first nonprofit investigative journalism organization and its work has been recognized for its excellence with recent awards including two national News & Documentary Emmys, a George Foster Peabody Award, a Webby award, a Military Reporters and Editors Award, a Bartlett & Steele Gold Award for investigative business journalism, Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University awards, a George Polk award, IRE Awards for multiplatform journalism and an Edward R. Murrow Award for investigative reporting. CIR was also named as a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2012, 2013, and 2018.

2. Respondent Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department ("LVMPD") is a state agency and the joint city-county police force for the City of Las Vegas and Clark County, Nevada.

FACTS

3. On or about December 11, 2017, Andy Donohue, the Managing Editor of CIR, contacted LVMPD's Office of Public Information to request information under the Nevada Open Records Act (the "Act") concerning the murder of Tupac Shakur in Las Vegas, Nevada in September 1996. Specifically, Mr. Donohue formally requested the opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of "[a]ny and all records related to the American rapper Tupac Amaru Shakur, aka 2Pac, aka Makaveli, including but not limited to law enforcement files involving his murder." See Exhibit "2," E-mail Correspondence between Andy Donohue and LVMPD Office of Public Information.

4. The purpose of Mr. Donohue's request was to gather information for a piece of investigative journalism about the decades-old unsolved murders of Tupac Shakur and Christopher

Wallace aka Notorious B.I.G. that would be broadcast to a national audience on one of CIR's platforms.

5. If LVMPD refused to comply with CIR's public records request, Mr. Donohue asked that LVMPD cite each specific exemption justifying such refusal under Nevada law. *Id.* To the extent LVMPD determined that some, but not all, of the information in the subject records was exempt from disclosure, Mr. Donohue further requested that LVMPD redact that information and produce the segregable portions of the records. *Id.*

6. Although Nevada law requires that a governmental entity respond to a request for public records under the Act with five (5) business days, LVMPD did not respond to Mr. Donohue's December 11, 2017 e-mail.

7. On January 10, 2018, Mr. Donohue followed up on CIR's public records request and noted that LVMPD had failed to comply with its statutory obligations under the Act. Ex. 2. That same day, LVMPD's Office of Public Information responded to Mr. Donohue by stating that his e-mail had been forwarded to PIO Officer Lawrence Hadfield for "follow-up." *Id.* Nevertheless, neither Officer Hadfield nor any other individual from LVMPD provided a determination to CIR regarding its public records request. *Id.*

8. On January 22, 2018, Mr. Donohue followed up on CIR's public records request for a second time and noted that LVMPD's determination was more than one month overdue. *Id.* Again, LVMPD did not respond to Mr. Donohue's e-mail. *Id.*

9. On March 15, 2018, Mr. Donohue followed up on CIR's public records request for a third time and pointed out that LVMPD's determination was now more than three months overdue. *Id.* Consistent with its prior failures to comply with the requirements of the Act, LVMPD did not respond to Mr. Donohue's e-mail. *Id.*

10. On March 28, 2018, the undersigned counsel sent a letter to LVMPD Director of Public Information, Carla Alston, setting forth LVMPD's failure to comply with its statutory

obligations under the Act and demanding a complete response to CIR's public records request on or before April 4, 2018. *See* Exhibit "3," 3/28/2018 Letter from Philip R. Erwin, Esq.

11. On April 5, 2018, LVMPD produced a two-page police report concerning the murder of Tupac Shakur. *See* Exhibit "4" Police Report. In direct contravention of its obligations under NRS 239.0107(d), LVMPD did not indicate whether additional documents existed or were withheld based on alleged confidentiality grounds.

12. On April 11, 2018, the undersigned counsel e-mailed Officer Hadfield and asked for confirmation that the two-page police report was the only document in LVMPD's possession responsive to CIR's public records request. *See* Exhibit "5," 4/11/2018 E-mail Correspondence from Philip R. Erwin, Esq. The undersigned counsel likewise requested that LVMPD confirm that it did not withhold any responsive documents—*e.g.* investigative files, correspondence, memoranda, et cetera—based on confidentiality grounds. *Id.* If LVMPD did withhold responsive documents on confidentiality grounds, the undersigned counsel demanded that it provide notice of that fact along with a citation to the supporting statute(s) or other legal authorities as required by NRS 239.0107(d). *Id.*

13. On April 12, 2018, Charlotte M. Bible, Assistant General Counsel for LVMPD, sent a letter in response to the undersigned counsel's April 11, 2018 e-mail. *See* Exhibit "6," 4/12/2018 Letter from Charlotte M. Bible, Esq. Ms. Bible first confirmed that LVMPD failed to advise CIR that it would research its public records request and respond within 30 days as required by NRS 239.0107(1)(c). *Id.* Ms. Bible then claimed that the criminal investigation of Tupac Shakur's murder is an "open active investigation" and, as such, the requested records are (i) not public records under NRS 239.010(1), (ii) declared by law to be confidential, (iii) subject to the "law enforcement privilege," and (iv) protected from disclosure because law enforcement policy justifications for nondisclosure outweigh the public's interest in access to the records. *Id.* Notwithstanding LVMPD's continued refusal to comply with CIR's public records request, Ms.

1 Bible conceded that LVMPD had failed to notify CIR that responsive documents were withheld
2 and did not provide supporting legal authorities as required by the Act. *Id.* In sum, Ms. Bible
3 declared that “disclosure of the investigative file would jeopardize apprehending a murder suspect”
4 although she did not provide any information or evidence to suggest that LVMPD’s purported
5 investigation into Tupac Shakur’s murder was, in fact, “open” and “active.” *Id.*

6 14. On April 23, 2018, the undersigned counsel responded to Ms. Bible’s letter and
7 disputed LVMPD’s legally unsupported position that any and all records related to Tupac Shakur’s
8 22-year-old murder are confidential as a matter of law because LVMPD has labeled its
9 investigation as “open” and “active.” *See* Exhibit “7,” 4/23/2018 Letter from Philip R. Erwin, Esq.
10 In addition, the undersigned counsel pointed out that LVMPD’s stated reason for withholding the
11 requested records—*i.e.* that the mere categorization of a criminal investigation as “open” precluded
12 the public dissemination of records under the Act—was recently rejected in the widely-publicized
13 public records litigation related to the October 1 shooting at Mandalay Bay. *Id.* In short, the
14 undersigned counsel submitted that the production of records related to the murder of Tupac
15 Shakur was required under Nevada law and requested that LVMPD confirm its intention to comply
16 with its statutory obligations by April 27, 2018. *Id.*

17 15. On April 27, 2018, Ms. Bible responded and maintained LVMPD’s position that
18 the requested records are confidential and, therefore, not subject to disclosure under the Act. *See*
19 Exhibit “8,” 4/27/2018 Letter from Charlotte M. Bible, Esq. Although Ms. Bible attempted to
20 expand on LVMPD’s policy justifications for nondisclosure, she did not provide any additional
21 information or evidence to suggest that the LVMPD’s alleged investigation into the decades-old
22 murder of Tupac Shakur was “open” and “active.” *Id.* Ms. Bible also did not indicate whether
23 LVMPD had actually reviewed the requested records to determine whether each and every
24 document is confidential. *Id.* Instead, LVMPD maintained its blanket objection to CIR’s request
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1 on confidentiality grounds and refused to produce any documents other than the two-page police
2 report.

3 POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

4 A. Legal Standard

5 16. In Nevada, writs of mandamus are governed by NRS 34.150, *et seq.* A writ of
6 mandamus is available to compel the performance of an act that the law requires as a duty resulting
7 from an office, trust or station, or to control an arbitrary or capricious exercise of discretion. *See* NRS
8 34.170; *DR Partners v. Bd. of County Comm'rs of Clark County*, 116 Nev. 616, 621-22, 6 P.3d
9 465, 468 (2000). Specifically, NRS 34.160 authorizes the District Court to compel the performance
10 of an act which the law otherwise requires:

12 The writ may be issued by the supreme court, a district court or a judge of the district
13 court, to compel the performance of an act which the law especially enjoins as a duty
14 resulting from an office, trust or station; or to compel the admission of a party to the
15 use and enjoyment of a right or office to which he is entitled and from which he is
16 unlawfully precluded by such inferior tribunal, corporation, board or person.

17 17. Writs of mandamus are appropriate where there is no "plain, speedy and adequate
18 remedy in the ordinary course of law." *See* NRS 34.170.

19 18. In analyzing NRS 34.160 and its accompanying provisions, the Nevada Supreme
20 Court has consistently ruled that a writ of mandamus is appropriate where a public official has failed
21 to perform an act that is required by law. *See, e.g., Nova Horizon, Inc. v. City Council of the City of*
22 *Reno*, 105 Nev. 92, 769 P.2d 721 (1989); *State, ex rel Johns v. Gragson*, 89 Nev. 478, 515 P.2d 65
23 (1973); *Henderson v. Henderson Auto Wrecking*, 77 Nev. 118, 359 P.2d 743 (1961). Mandamus is
24 the appropriate procedural remedy to compel the production of public records under NRS 239.010, *et*
25 *seq.* *See, e.g., DR Partners*, 116 Nev. at 622, 6 P.3d at 468 (compelling disclosure of billing
26 statements documenting county officials' use of publicly owned cellular telephones); *Donrey of*
27 *Nev., Inc. v. Bradshaw*, 106 Nev. 630, 798 P.2d 144 (1990) (compelling disclosure of a police
28 investigative report concerning the City Attorney's dismissal of charges against a defendant); *Las*

1 *Vegas Metro. Police Dep't v. Blackjack Bonding, Inc.*, 131 Nev. Adv. Op. 10, 343 P.3d 608 (2015)
2 (compelling disclosure of records for telephones used by county jail inmates).

3 19. The Nevada Public Records Act expressly provides that "all public books and
4 public records of a governmental entity, the contents of which are not otherwise declared by law
5 to be confidential, must be open at all times during office hours to inspection by any person." NRS
6 239.010. "The purpose of the [Nevada Public Records Act] is to ensure the accountability of the
7 government to the public by facilitating public access to vital information about governmental
8 activities." *DR Partners*, 116 Nev. at 622, 6 P.3d at 468.

9 20. In 2007, the Legislature amended the Act to ensure the presumption of openness,
10 and provided that all statutory provisions related to the Act must be construed liberally in favor of
11 the Act's purpose of fostering the principles of democracy by allowing public access to information
12 about government activities. *Reno Newspapers v. Sheriff*, 126 Nev. 211, 214, 234 P.3d 922, 924
13 (2010); *Reno Newspapers v. Gibbons*, 127 Nev. 873, 880, 266 P.3d 623, 628 (2011) ("First, we
14 begin with the presumption that all government-generated records are subject to disclosure."). The
15 Legislature likewise provided that any exemption, exception, or balancing of interests that restricts
16 the public's right to access a governmental entity's records must be construed narrowly. *Id.* As a
17 result, Nevada courts presume that all public records are open to disclosure unless (1) the
18 Legislature has expressly and unequivocally created an exemption or exception by statute, or (2)
19 balancing the private or law enforcement interests for nondisclosure against the general policy in
20 favor of an open and accessible government requires restricting public access to government
21 records. *Id.* at 214-15, 234 P.3d at 924-25. In accordance with the underlying policy of ensuring
22 an open and accountable government, the burden is on LVMPD to prove confidentiality by a
23 preponderance of the evidence. *Id.* at 215, 234 P.3d at 925.

24 21. If a request for production of public records under the Nevada Public Records Act
25 is denied, then NRS 239.011 provides that relief shall be granted expeditiously as follows:
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1 If a request for inspection is denied, the requester may apply to the district court in the
2 county in which the book or record is located for an order permitting him to inspect or
3 copy it. The court shall give this matter priority over other civil matters to which
4 priority is not given by other statutes.

5 **B. Records Related To LVMPD's Investigation Of Tupac Shakur's Murder Are Not**
6 **Confidential And Disclosure Is Required Pursuant To The Act.**

7 22. LVMPD claims that the criminal investigation into the murder of Tupac Shakur is
8 an "open active investigation." Ex. 6. More specifically, LVMPD asserts that it "obtained
9 evidence, conducted an investigation and continues its investigation concerning the murder of
10 Tupac Shakur because it is the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction to enforce the laws of the
11 State of Nevada to protect the public." Ex. 8. Based on its supposedly open investigation, LVMPD
12 submits that "the requested records are not public records under NRS 239.010(1), as such records
13 are declared by law to be confidential." Ex. 6.

14 23. In support of its position that records related to an open criminal investigation are
15 confidential as a matter of law, LVMPD cited the Nevada Supreme Court's opinion in *Pub. Emps.*
16 *Ret. Sys. (PERS) v. Reno Newspapers*, 129 Nev. Adv. Op. 88, 313 P.3d 221 (2013). The Nevada
17 Supreme Court, however, did not address the confidentiality of criminal investigative materials in
18 *PERS*. *Id.* Rather, the Nevada Supreme Court in *PERS* considered whether records related to
19 retired state employees who were collecting pensions were confidential. *Id.* As such, the Nevada
20 Supreme Court's opinion in *PERS* is not controlling in this matter. *See Blackjack Bonding*, 343
21 P.3d at 613-14 (stating that "the scope of the holding in *PERS* is gleaned from the facts of that
22 case" and rejecting LVMPD's reliance on *PERS* to support withholding of public records).

23 24. Next, LVMPD relies on the so-called "law enforcement privilege" which appears
24 to be a self-manufactured combination of the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") exception for
25 "records and information compiled for law enforcement purposes," *see* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7), and
26 the "federal law enforcement privilege, a qualified privilege designed to prevent the disclosure of
27 information [in a civil suit for damages] that would be contrary to the public interest in the effective
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1 information [were] present. There [was] no pending or anticipated criminal proceeding; there
2 [were] no confidential sources or investigative techniques to protect; there [was] no possibility of
3 denying someone a fair trial; and there [was] no potential jeopardy to law enforcement personnel.”
4 *Id.* at 635-36, 798 P.2d at 148-49.

5 27. In its original iteration, the balancing test “equally weighed the general policy in
6 favor of open government against privacy or law enforcement policy justifications for
7 nondisclosure.” *Reno Newspapers*, 126 Nev. at 217, 234 P.3d at 926. “However, in light of the
8 Legislature’s declaration of the rules of construction of the Act [in its 2007 Amendments]—
9 requiring the purpose of the Act to be construed liberally and any restriction to government
10 documents to be construed narrowly—the balancing test under *Bradshaw* now requires a narrower
11 interpretation of private or government interests promoting confidentiality or nondisclosure to be
12 weighed against the liberal policy for an open and accessible government.” *Id.* at 217-18, 234 P.3d
13 at 926. Turning to the *Bradshaw* factors, it is abundantly clear that the disclosure of records related
14 to the murder of Tupac Shakur is warranted especially where, as here, the incident in question
15 occurred 22 years ago.

16 28. The first *Bradshaw* factor addresses the existence of a pending or anticipated
17 criminal *proceeding*, not a criminal investigation as initially argued by LVMPD. Ex. 6. A
18 “criminal proceeding” is a defined as “[a] judicial hearing, session, or prosecution in which a court
19 adjudicates whether a person has committed a crime or, having already fixed guilt, decides on the
20 offender’s punishment; a criminal hearing or trial.” Black’s Law Dictionary (10th ed. 2014); *see*
21 *also United States v. Quinones*, 201 F.Supp.3d 789, 796-97 (S.D. W.Va. 2016) (“By
22 commencement of criminal proceedings, I mean the initiation of an actual case in a court of law,
23 such as the filing of a criminal complaint.”). It is undisputed that there is no pending or anticipated
24 criminal proceeding related to the unsolved murder of Tupac Shakur.
25
26
27
28

29. As to the second *Bradshaw* factor regarding the protection of confidential sources or investigative techniques, LVMPD claims that “[d]isclosing the investigative records may alert persons of interest or possible suspects of the investigation and investigative leads which could cause the destruction or concealment of evidence or other circumvention of the investigation.” Ex. 8. To begin, LVMPD has not provided any concrete evidence to support its dubious contention that it is still gathering evidence, pursuing leads, and actively investigating the decades-old murder of Tupac Shakur. *DR Partners*, 116 Nev. at 628, 6 P.3d at 472-73 (holding county failed to meet its burden to establish confidentiality where “no offer of proof of any kind was submitted to the district court for the purpose of balancing important or critical privacy interests against the presumption in favor of public disclosure of these redacted records.”); *Reno Newspapers*, 126 Nev. at 219, 234 P.3d at 927 (compelling disclosure where Washoe County Sheriff failed to provide evidence that public access to records would increase crime or create an unreasonable risk of harm). LVMPD’s claim that its investigation is “open” and “active” is particularly hard to believe when the LVMPD Homicide Sergeant in charge of the case stated “[w]e’re at a standstill” *in 1997*—just one year after Tupac Shakur’s murder. See Exhibit “9,” Cathy Scott, *The Death of Tupac Shakur One Year Later*, Las Vegas Sun, Sept. 6, 1997. Simply put, the mere fact that LVMPD may still label the Tupac Shakur murder investigation as “open”—while not actively pursuing the case—is patently insufficient to establish a justifiable law enforcement interest against disclosure. See, e.g., *Coastal States Gas Corp. v. Dep’t of Energy*, 617 F.2d 854, 870 (D. D.C. 1980) (“There is no reason to protect yellowing documents contained in long-closed files. DOE made no effort whatsoever in the district court to demonstrate that any of these cases are still under investigation or being actively pursued”).

30. Moreover, LVMPD’s argument that disclosure of investigative records may alert possible suspects of the investigation and result in the destruction or concealment of evidence is a purely hypothetical justification for withholding the requested materials. Indeed, LVMPD has not

1 identified any suspects who could potentially destroy or conceal evidence of a 22-year-old crime.
2 Ex. 8 (stating that “*If a suspect is identified...*”) (emphasis added). Moreover, it has been widely-
3 reported that the murder weapon was already discovered by the Compton Police Department in
4 1998, but subsequently misplaced by state and federal authorities in California. *See, e.g.*, Exhibit
5 “10,” Shenequa Golding, *Weapon Used in Tupac’s Murder Suddenly Disappears*, Billboard,
6 December 17, 2017. Here, LVMPD has only pointed to “merely hypothetical and speculative”
7 justifications to prevent disclosure, which the Nevada Supreme Court has repeatedly held are
8 insufficient to establish confidentiality under the Act. *PERS*, 129 Nev. at 839, 313 P.3d at 225;
9 *DR Partners*, 116 Nev. at 628, 6 P.3d at 472-73 (“Rather, the County seeks to meet its burden by
10 voicing non-particularized hypothetical concerns.”); *Gibbons*, 127 Nev. at 880, 266 P.3d at 628
11 (“[O]ur caselaw stresses that the state entity cannot meet this burden with a non-particularized
12 showing or by expressing hypothetical concerns.”) (internal citations omitted); *Star Pub. Co. v.*
13 *Parks*, 875 P.2d 837, 838 (Ariz. 1993) (“[I]t is insufficient [for the public entity] to hypothesize
14 cases where secrecy might prevail and then contend the hypothetical controls all cases.”).

15
16
17 31. The third *Bradshaw* factor contemplates the possibility of denying someone a fair
18 trial and LVMPD again attempts to meet its burden with hypothetical prognostications. Ex. 8
19 (stating that “[i]f a suspect is identified then the suspect has a right to a fair and impartial trial and
20 a right to view the evidence prior to the media or any other person.”) (emphasis added). Suffice it
21 to say, a hypothetical suspect’s right to a fair trial is insufficient to warrant nondisclosure when 22
22 years have passed since Tupac Shakur’s murder and no suspects have been identified or
23 apprehended. *PERS*, 129 Nev. at 839, 313 P.3d at 225; *DR Partners*, 116 Nev. at 628, 6 P.3d at
24 472-73; *Star Pub. Co.* 875 P.2d at 838. This is especially true when many of the witnesses and/or
25 persons with knowledge including Orlando Anderson—the gang member who brawled with Tupac
26 Shakur on the night of the murder and was a primary suspect in the case—are now dead. *See, e.g.*,
27 Exhibit “11,” Eric Malnick and Chuck Philips, *Possible Suspect in Tupac Shakur Death Killed in*
28

1 *Shootout*, L.A. Times, May 30, 1998; Ex. 9 (reporting that the sole witness who claimed to be able
2 to identify the shooter was killed two months after Tupac Shakur's murder before police could
3 question him at length).

4 32. As to the final *Bradshaw* factor, LVMPD has not claimed—nor can it—that the
5 disclosure of investigative records from a murder that occurred in 1996 will endanger law
6 enforcement personnel. Accordingly, this and the other three *Bradshaw* factors clearly weigh in
7 favor of compelling disclosure of the records related to the murder of Tupac Shakur.

8 33. Lastly, the public's interest in information related to the murder remains at a fever
9 pitch to this day. It is undisputed that Tupac Shakur's murder and the unsolved question of who
10 killed him has resulted in countless pieces of print journalism, documentaries, television shows,
11 and movies. In that regard, the nationally televised drama *Unsolved: The Murders of Tupac and*
12 *Notorious B.I.G.* aired its final episode just days ago. In recognition of the public's significant
13 interest in information related to the murder of Tupac Shakur, the Federal Bureau of Investigation
14 began releasing its investigatory file to the public as early as 2011 thereby confirming the absence
15 of any law enforcement justifications for maintaining secrecy over this information. Simply put,
16 LVMPD cannot identify a single compelling interest that would override the public's right to
17 obtain records related to Tupac Shakur's unsolved murder and the Court should issue a writ of
18 mandamus compelling disclosure under the Act.
19
20

21 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

22 Accordingly, Petitioners respectfully requests that the Court:

- 23 1. Conduct an expedited hearing on the instant matter;
- 24 2. Order Respondent to produce any and all documents responsive to the following
- 25 request: "Any and all records related to the American rapper Tupac Amaru Shakur, aka 2Pac, aka
- 26 Makaveli, including but not limited to law enforcement files involving his murder."
- 27 3. Award Petitioner its attorney fees and costs; and
- 28

4. Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper..

DATED this 2nd day of May, 2018.

CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS

By /s/ Philip R. Erwin

PHILIP R. ERWIN, ESQ. (11563)
SAMUEL R. MIRKOVICH, ESQ. (11662)
700 South Seventh Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Attorneys for Petitioner

EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS
PHILIP R. ERWIN, ESQ. (11563)
pre@cwlawlv.com
SAMUEL R. MIRKOVICH, ESQ. (11662)
srm@cwlawlv.com
700 South Seventh Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone: (702) 382-5222
Facsimile: (702) 382-0540
Attorneys for Petitioner

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE
REPORTING INC., a California Nonprofit
Organization,

Petitioner,

vs.

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE
DEPARTMENT,

Respondent.

CASE NO.:
DEPT. NO.:

**APPLICATION FOR ORDER
SHORTENING TIME**

Petitioner The Center for Investigative Reporting Inc., a California nonprofit organization, by and through its counsel, hereby moves this Court for an Order Shortening Time. This Application is made and based upon Petitioner's Petition for Writ of Mandamus and Incorporated Application for Order and Expedited Hearing Pursuant to NRS 239.011 and the attached declaration.

DATED this 2nd day of May, 2018.

CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS

By /s/ Philip R. Erwin

PHILIP R. ERWIN, ESQ. (11563)
SAMUEL R. MIRKOVICH, ESQ. (11662)
700 South Seventh Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Attorneys for Petitioner

CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
700 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
Phone: 702.382.5222 • Fax: 702.382.0510
www.campbellandwilliams.com

1 **DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF**
2 **MANDAMUS AND REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED HEARING THEREON**

3 I, ANDY DONOHUE, declare under penalty of perjury as follows:

4 1. I am the Managing Editor of The Center for Investigative Reporting.

5 2. I make this Declaration in support of the Petition for Writ of Mandamus and
6 Incorporated Application for Order and Expedited Hearing Pursuant to NRS 239.011.

7 3. I have read the contents of the Petition and know the same to be true and correct to
8 the best of my knowledge.

9 4. I declare there to be no plain, speedy or adequate remedy to compel Respondent to
10 produce the requested public records.

11 5. Pursuant to NRS 239.011, which provides that this matter is entitled "to priority over
12 other civil matters to which priority is not given by other statutes," I respectfully request that an
13 expedited hearing be set on this matter.

14 6. I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Nevada that the
15 foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

16 DATED this 2nd day of May, 2018.

17 
18 _____
19 ANDY DONOHUE
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
700 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
Phone: 702.382.5323 • Fax: 702.382.0540
www.campbellandwilliams.com

ORDER SHORTENING TIME

Upon the motion of the Petitioner, by and through their attorneys of record, and for good cause appearing:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Petitioner's Petition for Writ of Mandamus and Incorporated Application for Order and Expedited Hearing Pursuant to NRS 239.011 is hereby set for hearing on the 15 day of May, 2018, at the hour of 9:00 o'clock before the above entitled Court.

DATED this 4 day of May, 2018.

JOANNA S. KISHNER


DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Motion must be filed/served by: 5/7/18 @ 12pm
Opposition must be filed/served by: 5/10/18 @ 5pm
Reply must be filed/served by: 5/14/18 @ 12pm
Please provide courtesy copies to Chambers upon filing.

EXHIBIT 2

EXHIBIT 2

REDACTED

REDACTED

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Andy Donohue <adonohue@revealnews.org>

Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2018 at 12:30 PM

Subject: Re: Records request

To: PIO <PIO@ivmpd.com>, Victoria Baranetsky <vbaranetsky@revealnews.org>

Hello,

You are now nearly three months past the legal deadline for responding to this records request. I've attempted to work with you on this cordially, but if I do not get a response very soon, my attorney will be in

touch directly. She is copied on this email.

Andy Donohue
Managing Editor
o: 510.809.2205 c: 519.847.7076



from The Center for Investigative Reporting
[@add](#) | [podcast](#) | [website](#)

On Mon, Jan 22, 2018 at 11:18 AM, Andy Donohue <adonohue@revealnews.org> wrote:

Hello,

I still haven't received any response to my records request. It is my understanding that under state public records law, you were to have responded by Dec. 18, more than one month ago. I have copied my attorney, Victoria Baranetsky, on this conversation,

Andy Donohue
Managing Editor
o: 510.809.2205 c: 519.847.7076



from The Center for Investigative Reporting
[@add](#) | [podcast](#) | [website](#)

On Wed, Jan 10, 2018 at 1:22 PM, PIO <PIO@lvmpd.com> wrote:

Hello Andy,

I have forwarded your e-mail over to PIO Officer Hadfield for follow-up. He will be back in the office tomorrow.

Thank you,

Office of Public Information
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
400-B South Martin L. King Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106
☎ 702.828.4082 office | ☎ 702.828.1550 fax | ✉ PIO@LVMPD.com
Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

mg

From: Andy Donohue [<mailto:adonohue@revealnews.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 12:59 PM

To: PIO <PIO@LVMPD.COM>; Victoria Baranetsky <vbaranetsky@revealnews.org>
Subject: Re: Records request

I'm writing to follow up on the below request, which was filed December 11.

It is my understanding that under the Nevada Public Records Act, a request must be fulfilled or acknowledged within five business days of receipt. I have yet to receive any communication from the department.

Please advise when the request will be fulfilled. Thank you.

Andy Donohue
Managing Editor
o: 510.809.2205 c: 619.847.7076



from The Center for Investigative Reporting
@add | podcast | website

On Mon, Dec 11, 2017 at 3:03 PM, Andy Donohue <adonohue@revealnews.org> wrote:

Las Vegas Police Department

Office of Public Information

PIO@lvmpd.com

December 11, 2017

Via email

Re: Nevada Open Records Act Request

Under the Nevada Open Records Act § 239 et seq., I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of the following records:

* Any and all records related to the American rapper Tupac Amaru Shakur, aka 2Pac, aka Makaveli, including but not limited to law enforcement files involving his murder.

* Any and all records related to the American rapper Christopher Wallace, aka Notorious B.I.G., aka Biggie Smalls, including but not limited to law enforcement files involving his murder.

The FBI has long since released its records, doing so in 2011, indicating that there should be no privacy or law enforcement concerns in releasing these files. Additionally all privacy concerns are moot, where both men have been deceased now for more than two decades, as are many of the people involved.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$50. However, I would also like to request a waiver of all fees in that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of unsolved murders of major historical figures. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes.

If access to the records I am requesting will take longer than a 'reasonable' amount of time, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law. Additionally, if you determine that some but not all of the information in the requested records is exempt from disclosure, please redact that information and make all segregable portions available.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Andy Donohue
Managing Editor
o: 510.809.2205 c: 619.847.7076

Reveal

from The Center for Investigative Reporting
[@add](#) | [podcast](#) | [website](#)

Victoria D. Baranetsky

General Counsel

(w) 510-982-2890

(c) 201-306-4831

PGP EA48 1FB7 98E9 156E 3AFF 6748 F7B1 8B23 0838 D7F5

the
center for investigative
reporting

EXHIBIT 3

EXHIBIT 3



CAMPBELL
& WILLIAMS
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

March 28, 2018

VIA E-MAIL (PIO@LVMPD.COM)

Carla Alston
Director of Public Information
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
400 Stewart Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Dear Ms. Alston:

Please be advised that this firm represents The Center for Investigative Reporting ("CIR").

On December 11, 2017, CIR's Managing Editor, Andy Donohue, served a public records request on the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department ("LVMPD") pursuant to NRS 239.010 for (i) any and all records related to the American rapper Tupac Amaru Shakur, aka 2Pac, aka Makaveli, including but not limited to law enforcement files involving his murder, and (ii) any and all records related to the American rapper Christopher Wallace, aka Notorious B.I.G., aka Biggie Smalls, including but not limited to law enforcement files involving his murder. See Exhibit "1," E-mail Correspondence. The LVMPD did not provide the requested records or otherwise respond to Mr. Donohue's request.

On January 10, 2018, Mr. Donohue followed up on his original request and was informed by the Office of Public Information that his request had been forwarded to PIO Officer Hadfield. *Id.* Nevertheless, neither the Officer Hadfield nor anyone else from the Office of Public Information responded to Mr. Donohue's original request for public records. *Id.* Mr. Donohue subsequently contacted the Office of Public Information on January 22, 2018 and, again, did not receive a response. *Id.* Finally, Mr. Donohue contacted the Office of Public Information for a fourth time on March 15, 2018 and achieved the same unsuccessful result. *Id.*

Pursuant to NRS 239.0107, the LVMPD was required to respond to Mr. Donohue's original request within five (5) business days yet it has failed to comply with its statutory obligations for more than three (3) months. Accordingly, we hereby demand that the LVMPD fully respond to Mr. Donohue's public records request by no later than the close of business on Wednesday, April 4, 2018. If the LVMPD fails to comply with the requirements of Nevada's Public Records Act by the foregoing date, the CIR will make application for judicial relief pursuant to NRS 239.011 and seek its attorney's fees and costs.

700 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
PHONE: 702/392-5222
FAX: 702/392-0540

Ms. Carla Alston
March 28, 2018
Page 2

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS



Philip R. Erwin, Esq.

cc: Liesl K. Freedman, Esq., *via e-mail at L8706@lvmpd.com*
D. Victoria Baranetsky, Esq., General Counsel at The Center for Investigative Reporting

REDACTED

REDACTED

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Andy Donohue <adonohue@revealnews.org>

Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2018 at 12:30 PM

Subject: Re: Records request

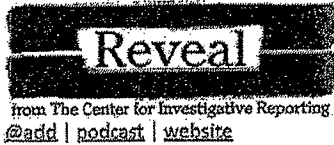
To: PIO <PIO@lvmpd.com>, Victoria Baranetsky <vbaranetsky@revealnews.org>

Hello,

You are now nearly three months past the legal deadline for responding to this records request. I've attempted to work with you on this cordially, but if I do not get a response very soon, my attorney will be in

touch directly. She is copied on this email.

Andy Donohue
Managing Editor
o: [510.809.2205](tel:510.809.2205) c: [619.847.7076](tel:619.847.7076)

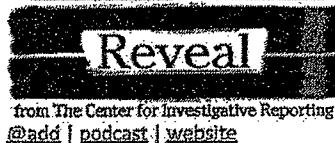


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Andy Donohue
Managing Editor
o: [510.809.2205](tel:510.809.2205) c: [619.847.7076](tel:619.847.7076)



On Wed, Jan 10, 2018 at 1:22 PM, PIO <PIO@lvmpd.com> wrote:

Hello Andy,

I have forwarded your e-mail over to PIO Officer Hadfield for follow-up. He will be back in the office tomorrow.

Thank you,

Office of Public Information
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
[400-B South Martin L. King Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106](https://www.lvmppd.com)
☎ [702.828.4082](tel:702.828.4082) office | ☎ [702.828.1550](tel:702.828.1550) fax | ✉ PIO@LVMPD.com
Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

mg

From: Andy Donohue [<mailto:adonohue@revealnews.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 12:59 PM

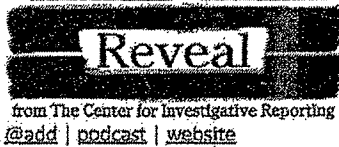
To: PIO <PIO@lvmpd.com>; Victoria Baranetsky <vbaranetsky@revealnews.org>
Subject: Re: Records request

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Please advise when the request will be fulfilled. Thank you.

Andy Donohue
Managing Editor
o: [510.809.2205](tel:510.809.2205) c: [619.847.7076](tel:619.847.7076)



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Las Vegas Police Department

Office of Public Information

PIO@lvmpd.com

December 11, 2017

Via email

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If access to the records I am requesting will take longer than a 'reasonable' amount of time, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law. Additionally, if you determine that some but not all of the information in the requested records is exempt from disclosure, please redact that information and make all segregable portions available.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Andy Donohue
Managing Editor
o: [510.809.2205](tel:510.809.2205) c: [619.847.7076](tel:619.847.7076)

Reveal

from The Center for Investigative Reporting
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Victoria D. Baranetsky
General Counsel
(w) 510-982-2890
(c) 201-306-4831
PGP EA48 1FB7 98E3 156E 3AFF 6748 F7B1 8B23 0838 D7F5

the
center for investigative
reporting

EXHIBIT 4

EXHIBIT 4

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
400 S. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89106



Case Report No: LLV960907002063

Administrative

Location 160 E FLAMINGO RD, Bldg#
Occurred On (Date and Time) 9/7/1996 11:17:00 PM
Reporting Officer
Entered By

Or Between (Date and Time)
Report Taken On 9/7/1996 12:30:00 AM
Entered On 9/19/1996 8:04:00 PM

Sector / Beat M2

Offenses:

MURDER

Completed No Domestic Violence No Hate/Bias

Victims:

Name: CROOKS, LESANE PARISH

Victim Type Individual
DOB [REDACTED] Age 25 Sex Male Race Black or African American Can ID Suspect No
Height 5' 11" Weight 165 Hair Color Black Eye Color Brown
Employer/School
Occupation/Grade Work Schedule
Injuries

Addresses

Nature/Cause GSW, Pronounced Date/Time
Transported To UMC Transported By MERCY Coroner Notified No
Medical Attendant Type PHYSICIAN
Notified By DR CARRINGTON, Medical Clearance Required No Next Of Kin Notified No
Medical Clearance By

Notes

: KNIGHT, MARION

Victim Type Individual
DOB [REDACTED] Age 31 Sex Male Race Black or African American Can ID Suspect No
Height 6' 2" Weight 315 Hair Color Black Eye Color Brown
Employer/School
Occupation/Grade Work Schedule
Injuries

Suspects:

Name: NAME NOT GIVEN

Aliases:

NAME NOT GIVEN,

Written Statement No
DOB [REDACTED] Age 0 Sex Male Race Black or African American
Height 0' 0" Weight 0 Hair Color Eye Color

Name: NAME NOT GIVEN

Aliases:

NAME NOT GIVEN,

Written Statement No
DOB [REDACTED] Age 0 Sex Male Race Black or African American
Height 0' 0" Weight 0 Hair Color Eye Color

The Use and Dissemination of this
Record is Regulated by Law. Secondary
Dissemination of any kind is Prohibited
and could subject the offender to Criminal
and Civil Liability.

This Information Released To:

By: [Signature] Date: 3/21/18
Las Vegas Metro Police Dept.

Properties:

Type:	Status	Used In the Commission of a Crime	Quantity	Value	Color
Description	CADILLAC SEVILLE AND STS / SLS [
]				
Manufacturer	CADILLAC		Model	SEVILLE AND STS / SLS	Serial Number/VIN
Vehicle Year	1990	Lic Plate #		Lic Plate State Nevada	Lic Plate Exp
Body Style	4-door		Vehicle Type		

Vehicle Colors

Primary	White
Secondary	White
Tertiary	White
Notes	

Type:	Status	Stolen Locally - Recovered Locally	Quantity	Value	Color
Description	CADILLAC SEVILLE AND STS / SLS [
]				
Manufacturer	CADILLAC		Model	SEVILLE AND STS / SLS	Serial Number/VIN
Vehicle Year	1990	Lic Plate #		Lic Plate State Nevada	Lic Plate Exp
Body Style	4-door		Vehicle Type		

Vehicle Colors

Primary	White
Secondary	White
Tertiary	White
Notes	

Narrative:

Subject: NARRATIVE # 002

Author: BECKER, B 2838 [2838]

Entered Date: 09/07/1996 00:30

Narrative Type: ENTRY-SU

PER OFFICER'S INCIDENT CRIME REPORT ATTEMPTED MURDER SHOULD BE ATTEMPTED MURDER 2CTS. ON 090796 AT 2317 LESANE CROOKS (AKA TUPAC SHAKUR) WAS SHOT MULTIPLE TIMES WHILE RIDING IN A CAR DRIVEN BY MARION KNIGHT AT FLAMINGO AND KOVAL. KNIGHT ALSO SUFFERED A MINOR GSW. THE SUSPECTS WERE IN A WHITE CADILLAC WHICH FLED THE SCENE.

EXHIBIT 5

EXHIBIT 5

Subject: Re: LVMPD Request
Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 1:47:40 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Phil Erwin
To: Lawrence Hadfield
CC: Samuel R. Mirkovich, Victoria Baranetsky
Attachments: 20180405154727644.pdf, image001.jpg, image002.jpg, image003.png, image004.jpg, image005.jpg

Dear Officer Hadfield,

On April 5, 2018, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department ("LVMPD") produced the attached two-page police report in response to Mr. Andy Donohue's multiple public records requests and my letter dated March 28, 2018. The LVMPD did not produce a log of responsive documents or otherwise indicate whether additional documents exist or were withheld based on alleged confidentiality grounds.

Can you please confirm that the attached police report is the only document in the LVMPD's possession that is responsive to our public records request? Can you likewise confirm that the LVMPD did not withhold any responsive documents—e.g. investigative files, correspondence, memoranda, etc.—based on confidentiality? If the LVMPD did withhold certain documentation due to confidentiality, please provide notice of that fact along with a citation to the supporting statute(s) or other legal authorities as required by NRS 239.0107.

Given the prior delays associated with our public records request and the statutory deadlines in Nevada's Public Records Act, we would ask that you respond to this e-mail by no later than the close of business on Friday, April 13, 2018. Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Philip R. Erwin, Esq.
Campbell & Williams
700 South Seventh Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Tel: (702) 382-5222
Fax: (702) 382-0540
pre@campbellandwilliams.com

** This message is intended for the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this information in error, please notify us immediately by telephone, and return the original message to us at the above address via U.S. Postal Service. Thank You.**

From: Lawrence Hadfield <L7171H@LVMPD.COM>
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 1:10 PM
To: Phil Erwin <pre@cwlawlv.com>, Lucinda Martinez <Imm@cwlawlv.com>
Cc: Sam Mirkovich <srm@cwlawlv.com>

Subject: LVMPD Request

Mr. Erwin,

We are in receipt of your letter to the director of the PIO. Your request is being processed via our Records section.

Officer Larry Hadfield

Office of Public Information

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

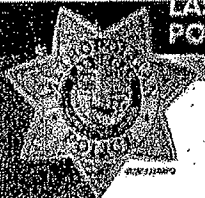
400-B South Martin L. King Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

☎ 702.828.4082 office | 📠 702.828.1550 fax | ✉ L7171H@lvmpd.com



EXHIBIT 6

EXHIBIT 6



LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN
POLICE DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH LOMBARDO, Sheriff

Partners with the Community

April 12, 2018

pre@cwlawlv.com
Phil R. Erwin, Esq.
Campbell & Williams
700 South Seventh Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Re: Public Records Request dated December 11, 2017
LVMPD PIO Request Number 171212-02

Dear Mr. Erwin:

Your email dated April 11, 2018 addressed to Officer Lawrence Hadfield assigned to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) Office of Public Information was forwarded to the Office of General Counsel for response. In your email you are addressing concerns about a public records request that Mr. Andy Donohue submitted. Mr. Donohue requested the following records:

- Any and all records related to the American rapper Tupac Amaru Shakur, aka 2Pac, aka Makaveli, including but not limited to law enforcement files involving his murder.
- Any and all records related to the American rapper Christopher Wallace, aka Notorious B.I.G., aka Biggie Smalls, including but not limited to law enforcement files involving his murder.

Mr. Donohue made his initial public records request on December 11, 2017. LVMPD's practice is to forward the request to the custodians of records who may have records responsive to the request. You should have been advised LVMPD would research your request and respond to you within 30 days. See, NRS 239.0107(1)(c). In response to your records request, LVMPD provided you on or about March 18, 2018 a report responsive to your request. When your record request was forwarded to the Homicide Bureau, which is the custodian of records of other responsive records to your request, it was learned the criminal investigation of the murder of Lesane Parrish Crooks also known as Tupac Shakur is an open active investigation. For this reason, no other records were provided. Unfortunately, this information was not communicated to you or

your client. Due to the open investigation, the requested records are not public records under NRS 239.010(1), as such records are declared by law to be confidential. See *Pub. Employees Ret. Sys. v. Reno Newspapers* 129 Nev. Adv. Op. 88, 313 P.3d 221, 224-25 (2013).

The public records law does not require the disclosure of materials that are confidential as a matter of law. See, *Civil Rights for Seniors v. Admin-Office of the Courts* 129 Nev. Adv. Op. 80, 313 P.3d 216, 219-20 (2013). The open criminal investigation is confidential because it subject to the law enforcement privilege and is protected from disclosure. *Donrey of Nevada v. Bradshaw*, 106 Nev. 630, 636, 798 P.2d 144, 148, (1990)); *Miller v. Mehlretter*, 478 F. Supp. 2d 415 (W.D.N.Y.) (2007); See also, 5 U.S.C. section 552(b)(7) (Nevada Supreme Court cites to the FOIA exemptions as analogous authority for the Nevada Public Records Act).

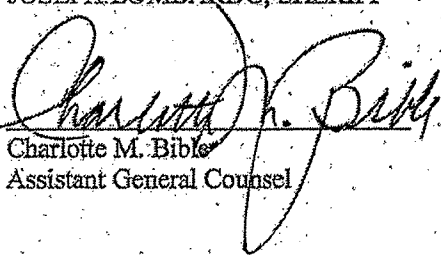
The requested documents are protected from disclosure because when the interests are weighed, the law enforcement policy justifications for nondisclosure clearly outweigh the public's interest in access to the records. In this case, disclosure of the investigative file would jeopardize apprehending a murder suspect. See, *Donrey of Nevada v. Bradshaw*, 106 Nev. 630, 636, 798 P.2d 144, 148, 1990 (acknowledging that law enforcement policy justifications for nondisclosure such as pending criminal investigations, confidential investigative techniques, potential jeopardy to law enforcement personnel, and a defendant's right to a fair trial may outweigh the general policy in favor of open government).

Based on the foregoing, there are no other public records responsive to your request.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH LOMBARDO, SHERIFF

BCC:


Charlotte M. Bible
Assistant General Counsel

CMB:sa

EXHIBIT 7

EXHIBIT 7



CAMPBELL
& WILLIAMS
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

April 23, 2018

VIA E-MAIL (C9479B@LVMPD.COM)

Charlotte M. Bible, Esq.
Associate General Counsel
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
400 Stewart Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Dear Ms. Bible:

I am in receipt of your letter dated April 12, 2018, which states that there are no other public records responsive to Mr. Andy Donohue's repeated public records requests because the criminal investigation of the 1996 murder of Lesane Parrish Crooks a/k/a Tupac Shakur is an "open active investigation" and "disclosure of the investigative file would jeopardize apprehending a murder suspect." Suffice it to say, we disagree with the legal grounds for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's ("LVMPD") blanket refusal to produce the requested records as Nevada law clearly provides that disclosure is required here.

Under the Nevada Public Records Act (the "Act"), all public records generated by government entities are public information and subject to disclosure unless otherwise declared to be confidential. *Reno Newspapers v. Sheriff*, 126 Nev. 211, 214, 234 P.3d 922, 924 (2010). In 2007, the Legislature amended the Act to ensure the presumption of openness, and provided that all statutory provisions related to the Act must be construed liberally in favor of the Act's purpose of fostering the principles of democracy by allowing public access to information about government activities. *Id.* The Legislature likewise provided that any exemption, exception, or a balancing of interests that restricts the public's right to access a governmental entity's records must be construed narrowly. As a result, Nevada courts presume that all public records are open to disclosure unless either (1) the Legislature has expressly and unequivocally created an exemption or exception by statute, or (2) balancing the private or law enforcement interests for nondisclosure against the general policy in favor of an open and accessible government requires restricting public access to government records. *Id.* at 214-15, 234 P.3d at 924-25.

Beginning with the first prong, you cite *Pub. Emps. Ret. Sys. (PERS) v. Reno Newspapers*, 129 Nev. Adv. Op. 88, 313 P.3d 221, 224-25 (2013) for the proposition that "[d]ue to the open investigation, the requested records are not public records under NRS 239.010(1), as such records are declared by law to be confidential." The Nevada Supreme Court, however, did not address the confidentiality of criminal investigative materials in *PERS*. Rather, the Nevada Supreme Court in *PERS* assessed the confidentiality of records related to retired state employees who were collecting pensions were confidential. As such, the Nevada Supreme Court's opinion in *PERS* is wholly inapplicable to this matter.

700 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
PHONE: 702/382-5222
FAX: 702/382-0540

Ms. Charlotte M. Bible, Esq.
April 23, 2018
Page 2

Similarly unavailing is your suggestion that "[t]he open criminal investigation is confidential because it is subject to the law enforcement privilege and is protected from disclosure." The Nevada Supreme Court in *Donrey of Nevada, Inc. v. Bradshaw*, 106 Nev. 630, 634, 798 P.2d 144, 147 (1990) expressly held that investigative materials prepared by law enforcement agencies "are subject to disclosure if policy considerations so warrant." As to your apparent reliance on the federal "law enforcement privilege," I would simply note that the Honorable Richard F. Scotti recently rejected this exact argument when it was advanced by the LVMPD in response to public records requests concerning the October 1 Massacre. See March 2, 2018 Order, *Am. Broad. Cos. v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep't*, Case No. A-17-764030-W. To that end, Judge Scotti compelled the production of the file related to that incident on grounds "that there exists no rule that records can be withheld merely because they relate to an ongoing investigation."

Turning to the balancing of interests, we recognize that law enforcement justifications may outweigh the general policy in favor of open government in some limited circumstances. *Bradshaw*, 106 Nev. at 635-36, 798 P.2d at 147-48. We would further note, however, that "the balancing test under *Bradshaw* now requires a narrower interpretation of private or government interests promoting confidentiality or nondisclosure to be weighed against the liberal policy for open and accessible government" as a result of the Legislature's amendments to the Act in 2007. *Reno Newspapers*, 126 Nev. at 217-18, 234 Nev. at 926.

In that regard, the *Bradshaw* factors clearly weigh in favor of disclosure of the requested records especially where, as here, the murder of Tupac Shakur occurred in 1996. First, your reference to "pending criminal investigations" mischaracterizes the Nevada Supreme Court's opinion in *Bradshaw* as the relevant consideration is whether there is a pending or anticipated criminal proceeding—and there is none. Second, the LVMPD cannot credibly claim that there are confidential sources or investigative techniques to protect in the criminal investigation of a murder that took place twenty-two years ago. This is especially true when many of the witnesses and/or persons with knowledge have since passed away. Lastly, there is no possibility of denying someone a fair trial nor is there any potential jeopardy to law enforcement personnel. While the LVMPD may still label the Tupac Shakur murder investigation as "open," any claimed justification for withholding the requested records would be "merely hypothetical and speculative[.]" which is insufficient to prevent disclosure under the Act. *PERS*, 129 Nev. at 839, 313 P.3d at 225. Simply put, the LVMPD cannot demonstrate that law enforcement justifications "clearly outweigh" the public interest in access to the requested records concerning a decades-old unsolved murder.

Based on the foregoing, we again demand that the LVMPD produce the requested records as required by Nevada law. We further request that the LVMPD confirm its intention to produce the requested records in writing on or before the close of business on Friday, April 27, 2018. Should the LVMPD fail to respond by that date and/or maintain its improper refusal to produce the requested records, we will promptly seek judicial intervention along with our attorney's fees and costs pursuant to NRS 239.111.

Ms. Charlotte M. Bible, Esq.
April 23, 2018
Page 3

Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS



Philip R. Erwin, Esq.

cc: Liesl K. Freedman, Esq., via e-mail at L8706@lvmpd.com
Lawrence Hadfield, via e-mail at L7171H@lvmpd.com
D. Victoria Baranetsky, Esq., General Counsel at The Center for Investigative Reporting

EXHIBIT 8

EXHIBIT 8

**LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

JOSEPH LOMBARDI, Sheriff

Partners with the Community

April 27, 2018

SENT VIA EMAIL: pre@cwlawlv.com

Phillip R. Erwin, Esq.
CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS
700 South Seventh Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Dear Mr. Erwin:

I am in receipt of your letter sent to my email address. I am very familiar with the 1 October public records request and the proceedings that have occurred. As you should know a District Court order is not precedent, should not be cited as authority and is not binding other than in the case. For your information, LVMPD is appealing Judge Scott's orders.

Regarding the application of the public records law and its exceptions to the Tupac Shakur murder investigation, I may not have been as clear as I could have been in explaining the public policy justification for non-disclosure of the investigative file. LVMPD's interest in protecting the investigative file is to avoid interference with the investigation of the murder of Tupac Shakur which LVMPD is actively pursuing. Disclosing the investigative records may alert persons of interest or possible suspects of the investigation and investigative leads which could cause the destruction or concealment of evidence or other circumvention of the investigation. If a suspect is identified then the suspect has a right to a fair and impartial trial and a right to view the evidence prior to the media or any other person. Based on these reasons, the policy justification for nondisclosure of the records clearly outweighs the media's interest in disclosure. LVMPD obtained evidence, conducted an investigation and continues its investigation concerning the murder of Tupac Shakur because it is the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction to enforce the laws of the State of Nevada to protect the public.

Contrary to your understanding of *Donrey of Nevada, Inc. v. Bradshaw*, 106 Nev. 630, 798 P.2d 144 (1990), LVMPD understands *Donrey* to protect open, ongoing law enforcement investigations from interference by premature disclosure of the investigative records or information. Preventing interference with a criminal investigation is a strong policy justification for denying the request for disclosure. LVMPD asserts the law enforcement privilege in good faith. Accordingly, LVMPD maintains the records are confidential by law and will not be producing the records requested at this time.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH LOMBARDI, SHERIFF

By:


Charlotte M. Bible
Assistant General Counsel

EXHIBIT 9

EXHIBIT 9

The death of Tupac Shakur one year later

Cathy Scott

Saturday, Sept. 6, 1997 | 3:16 a.m.

A year has passed since rap and film star Tupac Shakur was shot to death near the Las Vegas Strip.

The murder has yet to be solved, and, according to investigators, it may never be.

"We're at a standstill," said Metro Police homicide Sgt. Kevin Manning, who is heading the investigation.

Still, detectives receive "information constantly" about the murder, he said.

The information, however, hasn't moved the case forward. In addition to bona fide tips, police have received many false tips from people claiming to know who did it.

Police say the case slowed early in the investigation as few new clues came in and witnesses clammed up. The murder weapon has not been found, and no one has fingered a suspect.

The Shakur slaying is one of the biggest murder cases in Las Vegas history.

The case attracted national media attention, and has been featured on television shows such as "America's Most Wanted," "Unsolved Mysteries," "Prime Time Live" and "Hard Copy."

Before his death, Shakur, 25, was a music icon for many who saw him as a voice for young people rebelling against their lot in life.

Since his death and the release of the critically acclaimed film "Gridlock'd" and his last album, "Don Killuminati -- The 7-Day Theory," he's been likened to a prince.

But he also was heavily criticized, before and after his death, for his violent lyrics and negative depictions of women.

Fateful night

On Sept. 7, 1996, Shakur and Death Row Records owner Marion "Suge" Knight were driving to a nightclub with an entourage behind them on East Flamingo Road. They were in town for the Mike Tyson-Bruce Seldon heavyweight championship boxing match. Tyson was to meet them later at Club 662, where Shakur and other rap artists were scheduled to perform.

They never made it.

A light-colored late-model Cadillac pulled up next to Knight's rented BMW 750 and a gunman in the back seat opened fire on the passenger side. Shakur was hit three times.

He died six days later at University Medical Center.

So the question remains: Who killed Tupac Shakur? Was it as simple as jealousy over women and money? Was it related to street gangs, namely the Crips and Bloods? Was it because of an East Coast-West Coast rap music rivalry?

On Nov. 13, two months after Shakur's death, 19-year-old Yafeu Fula, a backup singer in Shakur's group Outlaw Immortalz, was shot gangland-style in the hallway of a housing project in Orange, N.J. The 19-year-old was part of Shakur's entourage in Las Vegas and was a passenger in a car directly behind Shakur's when Shakur was shot.

Police say Fula's murder was unrelated to the Shakur case, even though Fula was the only witness who told Metro investigators that night that he could possibly identify Shakur's assailant. Fula was killed before police could question him at length.

Then five months later, on March 9, Christopher Wallace, who also went by the name Biggie Smalls and performed under the name The Notorious B.I.G., was killed in Los Angeles in a shooting similar to Shakur's.

There was bad blood between the rappers. Wallace, on the East Coast, and Shakur, on the West Coast, had been involved in what has been termed a "bi-coastal rivalry" about who was the best rapper. Wallace, like Shakur, was a platinum-selling recording artist.

Metro's Manning said at the time of Wallace's death that it resembled "about 90 percent of drive-by shootings."

The 24-year-old drug dealer-turned-rap artist was killed as he sat in the passenger seat of his GMC Suburban while leaving a crowded party following the 11th annual Soul Train Music Awards.

Los Angeles Police have yet to solve Smalls' murder.

Lawsuits galore

Shakur's estate has been hit with a slew of lawsuits since his death. And his mother, Afeni Shakur, has been fighting to gain some control and benefit from his record sales as well as from as-yet-unreleased records. Afeni Shakur filed a suit against Death Row Records and its owner and chief executive officer, Marion "Suge" Knight.

Her New York attorney, Richard Fischbein, said he was close to reaching a settlement that would give his client a share of Shakur's earnings.

In another suit, Jacquelyn McNealey, now a paraplegic after being shot during one of Shakur's concerts, was awarded an undisclosed judgment in November against the late rapper's estate. She claimed Shakur "taunted and challenged" rival gang members in the audience, which caused a frenzy ending in her being shot, the lawsuit alleges.

And in yet another legal action, C. Delores Tucker, who in 1994 formed an anti-rap campaign with former U.S. drug czar William Bennett and is mentioned derogatorily in one of Shakur's songs, filed a lawsuit for damages against Shakur's estate. She claimed that her sex life with her husband was adversely affected because of some of Shakur's lyrics.

The latest suit was filed by Shakur's estranged father, Billy Garland of New Jersey. He's trying to share control of the estate with Afeni Shakur, even though he left the family when Shakur was 4 and remained absent until visiting Shakur in 1994 at a New York hospital.

Estimates of Shakur's worth vary because Death Row Records, the label under which Shakur recorded his last two albums, has claimed that Shakur was given hundreds of thousands of dollars in jewelry, cars, homes and cash that have been deducted from his platinum-selling records. Death Row Records wants millions of dollars in reimbursement it claims was advanced to Shakur.

The 32-year-old Knight has been imprisoned since November for violating a 1995 parole. He was sentenced to nine years in the California state prison system. A Los Angeles Superior Court judge said Knight violated his probation

by taking part in a fight at the MGM Grand hotel-casino on Sept. 7 following the Tyson-Seldon bout. About three hours later, Shakur was shot and Knight was grazed in the drive-by shooting on East Flamingo Road.

Police later identified the person beaten in the fight as Orlando Anderson of Compton, Calif. He was held for questioning by Compton and Las Vegas police, but later released. He has contended, through his attorney Edi O. Faal, that he had nothing to do with Shakur's killing.

Knight's downfall

Since the Shakur murder, more information has been learned about Knight's activities in Las Vegas, including a 1987 arrest at the Rancho Sahara Apartments at 1655 E. Sahara Ave., where Knight lived at the time. He was arrested on charges of attempted murder and grand larceny on Halloween night after Knight shot a man in the wrist and leg during an argument. Knight pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor.

On Nov. 3, 1989, Knight and Sharitha Lee Golden were married in Las Vegas.

Then, on June 6, 1990, Knight was charged with assault after he broke a man's jaw outside a house in West Las Vegas. Knight later pleaded guilty to felony assault with a deadly weapon.

Knight had attended UNLV and played on the Rebel football team in 1985 and 1986 but dropped out shortly before graduation, according to his teammates.

In May, several months after his parole violation conviction, Knight was transferred to the California Men's Colony East in San Luis Obispo, where he is serving out his nine-year sentence.

Since Knight's incarceration, his now-estranged wife, Sharitha Knight, has been taking care of the day-to-day operations of Death Row Records.

archive

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EXHIBIT 10

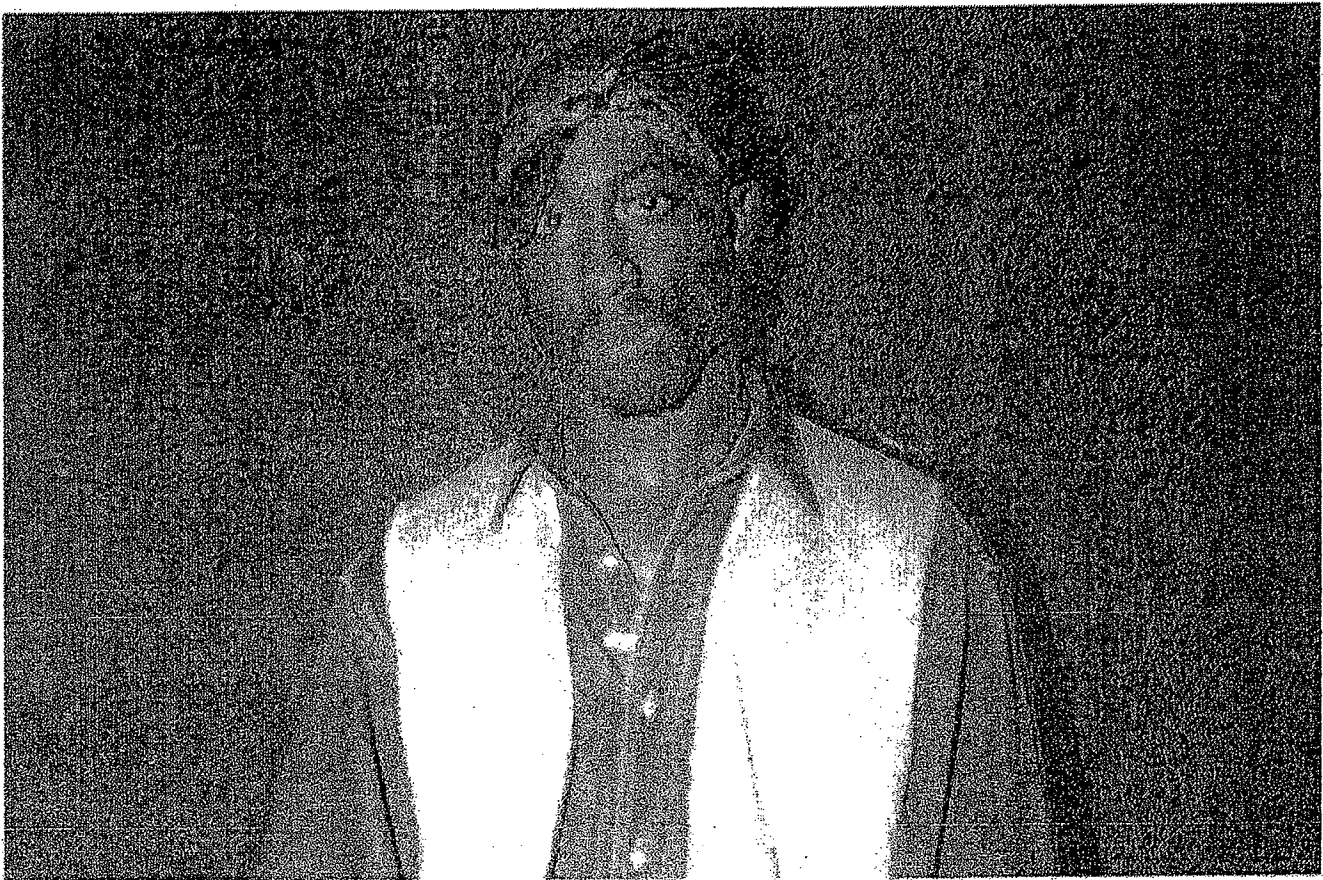
EXHIBIT 10

5/1/2018

Weapon Used in Tupac's Murder Suddenly Disappears | Billboard

Weapon Used in Tupac's Murder Suddenly Disappears

12/17/2017 by Shenequa Golding



Raymond Boyd/Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images

Tupac Shakur

The handgun used to shoot and kill Tupac Shakur in September of 1996 was reportedly found in a Compton backyard. However, new reports indicate the gun's current location is a mystery.

According to *TMZ*, the latest detail in the cold case involving the beloved rapper was discovered after an A&E producer for the *Who Killed Tupac?* series found documents outlining the gun's disappearance.

In 1998, an unidentified citizen called Compton police after finding a .40 caliber Glock in his backyard. Police arrived and records show the handgun was booked on May 30, 1998 as found property. In 2000, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department took over the Compton Police Department and confiscated about 3,800 firearms, including the Glock used in Tupac's murder. All the guns were transported.

READ MORE

Billboard 200 Chart Moves: 2Pac Returns to Top 40 After More Than 10 Years

Now, this is where things get a bit sticky.

In 2006, Deputy T. Brennan, who was also working the Biggie Smalls case, began combing through records and recognized the address where the gun was originally found to be that home of a Crip gang member who allegedly had issues with the "Dear Mama" singer.

Brennan ordered ballistics testing and the results matched the Glock used to kill Tupac. Reportedly, a federal prosecutor assigned to the case claimed news of the gun's discovery would alert conspirators and ordered the gun not be transported to the Las Vegas Police Department. While it's not outlined in the document, the belief is fear of renewed gang violence may erupt.

Tupac's brother was said to be frustrated that a vital piece of evidence in his brother's case was not handled properly.

This article originally appeared on Vibe.

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EXHIBIT 11

EXHIBIT 11

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Possible Suspect in Tupac Shakur Death Killed in Shootout

May 30, 1998 | ERIC MALNIC and CHUCK PHILIPS | TIMES STAFF WRITERS

Orlando Anderson--once named by police as a suspect in the Las Vegas slaying of rap star Tupac Shakur--was killed Friday in a gang shootout in Compton that also claimed the life of another man, sources close to the case said.

Police withheld formal identification of the victims, saying that the next of kin had yet to be notified. Officers said only that two men were dead, a third man was in critical condition and a fourth, who was treated for gunshot wounds, had been booked on suspicion of murder.

Anderson, whose grandmother had died of natural causes earlier in the day, told friends about 2 p.m. that he was "going to the store." A few minutes later, he left his home in Compton and drove off with friends, the sources said.

About 3:10 p.m., Anderson and another man--both believed to be members of the Southside Crips--drove up to a carwash at Alondra Boulevard and Oleander Avenue where several members of a rival gang had gathered, police said.

"There was an altercation," Compton Police Lt. Robert Baker said. "Both sides began shooting."

The brief but intense gun battle scattered bystanders and left four men sprawled on the pavement, all of them gang members, according to police.

The four were taken to Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center in nearby Willowbrook, where Anderson, 23, and another man were pronounced dead a short time later.

A third man was in critical condition and "just clinging to life," according to a nurse at the hospital.

The fourth--Michael Reed Dorrough, 24--was treated for lesser wounds before being booked by Compton police on suspicion of murder.

Investigators said the confrontation that preceded the shooting apparently stemmed from a dispute over money. The shootout occurred next to Compton High School, but police said that although classes were in session, no students or staff members were involved.

Although Las Vegas police say there was never any direct evidence linking Anderson to Shakur's death, Los Angeles police said as recently as last September that they still considered Anderson a suspect in the unsolved murder.

Last September, Shakur's mother filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against Anderson, saying he was the one who gunned down the rap star on the Las Vegas Strip in September 1996.

According to the lawsuit, the rapper's shooting followed a fight in a hotel lobby between Shakur's entourage and Anderson. An affidavit filed with the lawsuit contends that Anderson was seen carrying a Glock .40-caliber handgun--the same type of weapon used to kill Shakur--several days after the rapper's death.

Times staff writer Nieson Himmel contributed to this report.

EXHIBIT “2”

Steven D. Grierson

CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS
PHILIP R. ERWIN, ESQ. (11563)
pre@cwlawlv.com
SAMUEL R. MIRKOVICH, ESQ. (11662)
srm@cwlawlv.com
700 South Seventh Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone: (702) 382-5222
Facsimile: (702) 382-0540
Attorneys for Petitioner

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE
REPORTING INC., a California Nonprofit
Organization,

Petitioner,

vs.

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE
DEPARTMENT,

Respondent.

CASE NO.: A-18-773883-W
DEPT. NO.: XI

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

Please take notice that on the 5th day of November, 2018, an Order Regarding the Center for Investigative Reporting Inc.'s Petition for Writ of Mandamus, was duly entered in the above entitled matter, a copy of which is attached as "Exhibit 1" and by this referenced made part hereof.

DATED this 5th day of November, 2018.

CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS

By: /s/ Philip Erwin

Philip R. Erwin, Esq. (11563)
Samuel R. Mirkovich, Esq. (11662)
700 South Seventh Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
700 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
Phone: 702.382.5222 • Fax: 702.382.0540
www.campbellandwilliams.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of Campbell & Williams, and that on this 5th day of November, 2018, I caused the foregoing document entitled **NOTICE OF ENTRY ORDER** to be served upon those persons designated by the parties in the E-Service Master List for the above-referenced matter in the Eighth Judicial District Court eFiling System in accordance with the mandatory electronic service requirements of Administrative Order 14-2 and the Nevada Electronic Filing and Conversion Rules.

By: /s/ Lucinda Martinez
An Employee of Campbell and Williams

EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

Steven D. Grierson

CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS
PHILIP R. ERWIN, ESQ. (11563)
pre@cwlawlv.com
SAMUEL R. MIRKOVICH, ESQ. (11662)
srm@cwlawlv.com
700 South Seventh Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone: (702) 382-5222
Facsimile: (702) 382-0540

Attorneys for Petitioner

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE
REPORTING INC., a California Nonprofit
Organization,

Petitioner,

vs.

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE
DEPARTMENT,

Respondent.

CASE NO.: A-18-773883-W
DEPT. NO.: XI

**ORDER REGARDING THE CENTER
FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING
INC.'S PETITION FOR WRIT OF
MANDAMUS**

Hearing Date: October 30, 2018
Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m.

This matter came on for hearing on Petitioner The Center For Investigative Reporting Inc.'s Verified Petition for Writ of Mandamus and Incorporated Application for Order and Expedited Hearing Pursuant to NRS 239.011 (the "Petition") on October 30, 2018. Philip R. Erwin, Esq. of the law firm Campbell & Williams appeared on behalf of Petitioner The Center For Investigative Reporting Inc. ("CIR") and Jackie V. Nichols, Esq. of the law firm Marquis Aurbach Coffing appeared on behalf of Respondent Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department ("LVMPD"). Having considered CIR's Petition, LVMPD's Response, CIR's Reply, the parties' supplemental briefing regarding CIR's prevailing status under NRS 239.011(2), and the arguments of counsel, and good cause appearing therefore:

1 I. FINDINGS

2 THE COURT HEREBY FINDS THAT prior to the filing of this lawsuit, LVMPD did not
3 comply with the Nevada Public Records Act in response to CIR's requests seeking public records
4 related to the murder of Tupac Shakur in September 1996.

5 THE COURT FURTHER FINDS THAT as a result of the filing of this lawsuit, LVMPD
6 complied with the Nevada Public Records Act and made a satisfactory production of the public
7 records sought by CIR's Petition.

8 THE COURT FURTHER FINDS THAT because the filing of this lawsuit caused
9 LVMPD to comply with the Nevada Public Records Act, CIR prevailed pursuant to NRS
10 239.011(2).
11

12 II. ORDER

13 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that the Verified Petition for
14 Writ of Mandamus and Incorporated Application for Order and Expedited Hearing Pursuant to
15 NRS 239.011 is DENIED as moot.

16 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT CIR shall be deemed to have prevailed in this
17 litigation pursuant to NRS 239.011(2).
18

19 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT CIR shall submit a motion for attorney's fees and
20 costs within ten (10) days of the notice of entry of this Order.

21 IT IS SO ORDERED.

22 DATED this 5 day of November, 2018.

23
24 
25 DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
26 EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
27
28

1 Respectfully submitted by:

2 CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS

3 By: 

4 Philip R. Erwin, Esq. (11563)
5 Samuel R. Mirkovich, Esq. (11662)
6 700 South Seventh Street
7 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

8 *Attorneys for Petitioner*

9 Approved as to form and content:

10 MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

11 By: 

12 Nick D. Crosby, Esq. (8996)
13 Jackie V. Nichols, Esq. (14246)
14 10001 Park Run Drive
15 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145

16 *Attorneys for Respondent*

EXHIBIT “3”



NEOJ
CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS
PHILIP R. ERWIN, ESQ. (11563)
pre@cwlawlv.com
SAMUEL R. MIRKOVICH, ESQ. (11662)
srn@cwlawlv.com
700 South Seventh Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone: (702) 382-5222
Facsimile: (702) 382-0540

Attorneys for Plaintiff

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE
REPORTING INC., a California Nonprofit
Organization,

Petitioner,

vs.

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE
DEPARTMENT,

Respondent.

CASE NO.: A-18-773883-W
DEPT. NO.: XI

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

Please take notice that on the 7th day of January, 2019, an Order Granting The Center for Investigative Reporting, Inc.'s Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, was duly entered in the above entitled matter, a copy of which is attached as "Exhibit 1" and by this referenced made part hereof.

DATED this 8th day of January, 2019.

CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS

By: /s/ Philip Erwin

Philip R. Erwin, Esq. (11563)
Samuel R. Mirkovich, Esq. (11662)
700 South Seventh Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of Campbell & Williams, and that on this 8th day of January, 2019, I caused the foregoing document entitled **NOTICE OF ENTRY ORDER** to be served upon those persons designated by the parties in the E-Service Master List for the above-referenced matter in the Eighth Judicial District Court eFiling System in accordance with the mandatory electronic service requirements of Administrative Order 14-2 and the Nevada Electronic Filing and Conversion Rules.

By: /s/ Lucinda Martinez
An Employee of Campbell and Williams

EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

Steven D. Grierson

ORDR

CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS

PHILIP R. ERWIN, ESQ. (11563)

pre@cwlawlv.com

SAMUEL R. MIRKOVICH, ESQ. (11662)

smr@cwlawlv.com

700 South Seventh Street

Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Telephone: (702) 382-5222

Facsimile: (702) 382-0540

Attorneys for Plaintiff

DISTRICT COURT

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THE CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE
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vs.

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE
DEPARTMENT,

Respondent.

CASE NO.: A-18-773883-W

DEPT. NO.: XI

**ORDER GRANTING THE CENTER FOR
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING INC.'S
MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES
AND COSTS**

This matter came on for hearing in chambers before the Honorable Elizabeth Gonzalez this 21st day of December, 2018 on Petitioner The Center for Investigative Reporting Inc.'s Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs. The Court, having reviewed the Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and related briefing, and being fully informed, hereby rules as follows:

I. FINDINGS

1. This matter arose out of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's ("LVMPD") noncompliance with the Nevada Public Records Act ("NPR") in connection with The Center for Investigative Reporting Inc.'s ("CIR") requests for public records concerning the

01-07-19A06:33 RCVD

1 murder of Tupac Shakur in Las Vegas, Nevada in September 1996. Because LVMPD maintained
2 a blanket objection to confidentiality and refused to produce any records beyond a two-page police
3 report, CIR commenced this action by filing its Petition for Writ of Mandamus (the "Petition")
4 pursuant to NRS 239.011. Thereafter, the Honorable Joanna Kishner conducted a hearing on CIR's
5 Petition and stated that LVMPD had failed to meet its burden of demonstrating confidentiality as
6 required by Nevada law. Following the hearing, LVMPD agreed to produce the requested records
7 and ultimately provided CIR with approximately 1,400 pages of records and other media related to
8 Tupac Shakur's murder.
9

10 2. In Nevada, an award of attorneys' fees is permitted when "allowed by express or
11 implied agreement or when authorized by statute." *See Schouweiler v. Yancey Co.*, 101 Nev. 827,
12 829, 712 P.2d 786, 788 (1985). Under the NPRA, "[i]f the requester prevails, the requester is
13 entitled to recover his or her costs and reasonable attorneys' fees in the proceeding from the
14 governmental entity whose officer has custody of the book or record." NRS 239.011(2). Here, the
15 parties submitted comprehensive briefs on this issue and the Court determined that CIR "prevailed"
16 pursuant to NRS 239.011(2) because this lawsuit caused LVMPD to comply with the NPRA. *See*
17 *Order Regarding The Center for Investigative Reporting, Inc.'s Petition for Writ of Mandamus (on*
18 *file)*. Based on this finding, CIR submitted its Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs.
19

20 3. LVMPD asserts that a non-prevailing government entity is only subject to an award
21 of fees and costs under NRS 239.011(2) if it acted in bad faith. LVMPD's argument hinges on its
22 contention that NRS 239.011(2) must be read in conjunction with NRS 239.012, which provides
23 that "[a] public officer or employee who acts in good faith in disclosing or refusing to disclose
24 information and the employer of the public officer or employee are immune from liability for
25 damages, either to the requestor or to the person to whom the information concerns." Put another
26 way, LVMPD argues that an award of attorney's fees and costs under NRS 239.011(2) is subsumed
27 within the "damages" contemplated by the good faith immunity statute of NRS 239.012. LVMPD,
28

1 in turn, asserts that it acted in good faith in response to CIR's public records requests, which
2 precludes an award of fees and costs to CIR under NRS 239.011(2).

3 4. The Court finds that LVMPD's attempt to interpolate a good faith requirement in
4 NRS 239.011(2) is misplaced. Again, NRS 239.011(2) provides that "[i]f the requester prevails,
5 the requester is entitled to recover his or her costs and reasonable attorney's fees in the proceeding
6 from the governmental entity whose officer has custody of the book or record." *Id.* In a recent case
7 involving LVMPD, the Nevada Supreme Court confirmed that "by its plain meaning, [NRS
8 239.011(2)] grants a requester who prevails in NPRA litigation the right to recover attorney's fees
9 and costs[.]" *Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep't v. Blackjack Bonding*, 131 Nev. Adv. Op. 10, 343
10 P.3d 608, 615 (2015). There is no language in NRS 239.11(2) that provides a requesting party is
11 only entitled to attorney's fees and costs if the governmental entity acted in bad faith. *See Savage*
12 *v. Pierson*, 123 Nev. 86, 89, 157 P.3d 697, 699 (2007) ("When examining a statute, a purely legal
13 inquiry, this court should ascribe to its words their plain meaning, unless this meaning was clearly
14 not intended."). Rather, the requesting party must only "prevail" in order to seek attorney's fees
15 and costs as CIR did here. *See Order Regarding The Center For Investigate Reporting's Petition*
16 *for Writ of Mandamus (on file).*

19 5. Nevada law is clear that a statutory award of attorney's fees and costs differs from
20 special damages in the form of attorney's fees incurred as a result of tortious conduct or a breach
21 of contract. *See Sandy Valley Assocs. v. Sky Ranch Estates Owners Ass'n*, 117 Nev. 948, 955-57,
22 956 P.3d 964, 968 (2001) (clarifying Nevada jurisprudence "regarding the difference between
23 attorney fees as a cost of litigation and attorney fees as an element of damage[.]" and listing cases
24 where fees were awarded as a cost of litigation or as an element of special damages). CIR is plainly
25 seeking its attorney's fees as a cost of litigation pursuant to a statute and not as special damages
26 subject to the pleading requirements of NRCP 9(g). Moreover, unlike other statutory schemes in
27 Nevada, the NPRA does not expressly define attorney's fees and costs as an element of damages.
28

1 Cf., *Albos v. Horizon Communities, Inc.*, 122 Nev. 409, 414, 132 P.3d 1022, 1025 (2006) ("Nev.
2 Rev. Stat. § 40.655 allows constructional defect claimants to recover attorney's fees and costs as
3 an element of damages[.]"). Accordingly, the Court finds that an award of attorney's fees and costs
4 under NRS 239.011(2) is separate and distinct from the damages addressed by NRS 239.012.

5 6. NRS 239.012 applies to a broader set of circumstances than the narrow fee provision
6 in NRS 239.011(2). NRS 239.012 immunizes an individual employee from damages for any good
7 faith response to a public records request whereas NRS 239.011(2) only applies when a requester
8 prevails in a judicial action to obtain records that were wrongfully withheld by a governmental
9 entity. Similarly, NRS 239.012 immunizes an individual employee for the disclosure or refusal to
10 disclose public records, but NRS 239.011(2) is only invoked based on a governmental entity's
11 refusal to disclose public records. The Court finds these distinctions also weigh against a finding
12 that NRS 239.011(2) incorporates the good faith immunity provision contained in NRS 239.012.

13 14 7. LVMPD's position conflicts with the underlying policy of the NPRA, which is "to
15 foster democratic principles by providing members of the public with access to inspect and copy
16 public books and records to the extent permitted by law." NRS 239.001(1). In that regard, "the
17 provisions of the [NPRA] must be construed liberally to carry out this important purpose[.]" and
18 "[a]ny exemption, exception or balancing of interests which limits or restricts access to public
19 books and records by members of the public must be construed narrowly." NRS 239.001(2) and
20 (3). The Court will not interpret a good faith requirement in NRS 239.011(2) because an expansive
21 application of the NPRA's fee provision encourages governmental entities such as LVMPD to
22 comply with the law. *See, e.g., Frankel v. Dist. of Columbia Office for Planning and Econ. Dev.*, 110
23 A.3d 553, 557 (D.C. Ct. App. 2015) (adopting broad interpretation of fee provision as it "advances
24 [the] goals [of D.C. FOIA] by allowing more litigants to recover attorney's fees and creating an
25 incentive for the D.C. government to disclose more documents in the first place.").

1 8. Regardless, to the extent NRS 239.011(2) incorporates the good faith requirement
2 set forth in NRS 239.012, the Court finds that LVMPD's decision not to comply with CIR's public
3 records requests was not made in good faith.

4 9. In determining the amount of attorneys' fees and costs to be awarded, the Nevada
5 Supreme Court ruled in *Brunzell v. Golden Gate National Bank*, 85 Nev. 345, 345, 455 P.2d 31, 31
6 (1969), that the following factors are to be considered: (1) *the qualities of the advocate*: his ability,
7 his training, education, experience, professional standing and skill; (2) *the character of the work to*
8 *be done*: its difficulty, its intricacy, its importance, time and skill required, the responsibility
9 imposed and the prominence and character of the parties where they affect the importance of the
10 litigation, (3) *the work actually performed by the lawyer*: the skill, time and attention given to the
11 work; (4) *the result*: whether the attorney was successful and what benefits were derived.

12 10. The Court has carefully analyzed the *Brunzell* factors as follows:

13 a) Regarding the qualities of counsel, the Court finds that CIR's counsel are
14 experienced and skilled litigators in general. The Court further finds that the hourly
15 rate of \$450 charged by Messrs. Erwin and Mirkovich is consistent with reasonable
16 community standards for work in similar matters and for firms with similar pedigrees.
17 The requested rates are also consistent with those sought and/or awarded to CIR's
18 counsel in previous cases.

19 b) Next, the character of the work performed was high quality and concerned at
20 least one issue of first impression in this State. This case also involved a dispute
21 between CIR, a critically acclaimed media outlet, and LVMPD, the primary law
22 enforcement agency in Southern Nevada, regarding CIR's efforts to obtain information
23 related to a matter of significant public interest.
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c) The Court finds that the work actually performed by CIR's counsel—which included extensive briefing and numerous court appearances—was reasonable, necessary and skillfully accomplished.

d) With respect to the result obtained, the Court has previously detailed its findings that CIR prevailed in this matter and incorporates those findings as if fully set forth herein.

11. The Court finds that CIR has adequately supported its request for attorney's fees with appropriate evidence in the form of (i) a declaration from Philip R. Erwin, Esq., addressing the *Brunzell* factors and (ii) a detailed record of the work performed by counsel and costs expended in this matter.

II. ORDER

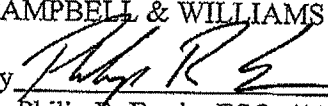
1. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that CIR's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs is GRANTED.

2. LVMPD shall pay CIR and its counsel \$50,402.89 in attorney's fees and costs within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order.

DATED this 7 day of January, 2019.


HON. JUDGE ELIZABETH GONZALEZ

Respectfully submitted by:
CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS

By 
Philip R. Erwin, ESQ. (11563)
Samuel R. Mirkovich (11662)
700 South Seventh Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Attorneys for Petitioner

Approved As To Form By:
MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

By REFUSED TO SIGN
Nick D. Crosby, Esq. (8996)
Jackie V. Nichols, Esq. (14246)
10001 Park Run Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89145

Attorneys for Respondent