

RESOLUTION NO. 1192018

A RESOLUTION UPDATING THE CITY'S PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY

THIS RESOLUTION SUPERSEDES ANY PRIOR PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY

I. AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

(1) The Revised Code of Washington requires each agency to make available for inspection and copying nonexempt "public records" in accordance with published rules. The act defines "public record" to include any "writing containing information relating to the conduct of government or the performance of any governmental or proprietary function prepared, owned, used, or retained" by the agency. In addition, the Revised Code requires each agency to set forth "for informational purposes" every law, in addition to the Public Records Act, that exempts or prohibits the disclosure of Public Records held by that agency. Please see Exhibit A.

(2) The purpose of these rules is to establish the procedures the City of Newport will follow in order to provide full access to public records. These rules provide information to persons wishing to request access to public records of the City of Newport and establish processes for both requestors and the City of Newport staff that are designed to best assist members of the public in obtaining such access.

(3) The purpose of the act is to provide the public full access to information concerning the conduct of government, mindful of individuals' privacy rights and the desirability of the efficient administration of government. The act and these rules will be interpreted in favor of disclosure. In carrying out its responsibilities under the act, the City of Newport will be guided by the provisions of the act describing its purposes and interpretation.

II. AGENCY DESCRIPTION--CONTACT INFORMATION--PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICER

(1) The City of Newport is a local city government providing a vast array of services. The City Of Newport's City Hall is located at 200 South Washington Avenue, Newport, WA 99156.

(2) Any person wishing to request access to public records of the City of Newport or seeking assistance in making such a request should contact the public records officer of the City of Newport, Cindy Endahl, the City of Newport's designated Public Records Officer. Her address is 200 South Washington Avenue, Newport, WA 99156. Her telephone number is (509) 447-5611.

(3) The public records officer will oversee compliance with the act but another City staff member may process the request. Therefore, these rules will refer to the public records officer "or designee." The public records officer or designee and the City of Newport will provide the "fullest assistance" to requestors; ensure that public records are protected from damage or disorganization; and prevent fulfilling public records requests from causing excessive interference with essential functions of the City of Newport.

III. AVAILABILITY OF PUBLIC RECORDS

(1) Hours for inspection of records. Public records are available for inspection and copying during normal business hours of the City of Newport, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding legal holidays. Records must be inspected at the offices of the City of Newport.

(2) An Index of Records is available from the public records officer.

(3) Organization of records. The City of Newport will maintain its records in a reasonably organized manner. The City of Newport will take reasonable actions to protect records from damage and disorganization. A requestor shall not take the City of Newport records from the City of Newport offices without the permission of the public records officer or designee.

(4) Making a request for public records.

(a) Any person wishing to inspect or copy public records of the City of Newport should make the request in writing on the City of Newport's request form, or by letter addressed to the public records officer and including the following information:

- Name of requestor;
- Address of requestor;
- Other contact information, including telephone number and any e-mail address;
- Identification of the public records adequate for the public records officer or designee to locate the records; and
- The date and time of day of the request.

(b) If the requestor wishes to have copies of the records made instead of simply inspecting them, he or she should so indicate and make arrangements to pay for copies of the records or a deposit. Standard photocopies will be provided at 15 cents per page.

(c) A form is available for use by requestors at the office of the public records officer.

(d) The public records officer or designee may accept requests for public records that contain the above information by telephone or in person. If the public records officer or designee accepts such a request, he or she will promptly document receipt of the information and the substance of the request in writing.

IV. PROCESSING OF PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS--GENERAL

(1) Providing "fullest assistance." The City of Newport is charged by statute with adopting rules which provide for how it will "provide full access to public records," "protect records from damage or disorganization," "prevent excessive interference with other essential functions of the agency," provide "fullest assistance" to requestors, and provide the "most timely possible action" on public records requests. The public records officer or designee will process requests in the order allowing the most requests to be processed in the most efficient manner.

(2) Acknowledging receipt of request. Within five business days of receipt of the request, the public records officer will do one or more of the following:

(a) Make the records available for inspection or copying;

(b) If copies are requested and payment of a deposit, for the copies, if any, is made or terms of payment are agreed upon, send the copies to the requestor;

(c) Provide a reasonable estimate of when records will be available; or

(d) If the request is unclear or does not sufficiently identify the requested records, request clarification from the requestor. Such clarification may be requested and provided by telephone. The public records officer or designee may revise the estimate of when records will be available; or

(e) Deny the request, withhold some records or redact the records. The City will note the reasons for denying, withholding or redacting any records.

(3) Consequences of failure to respond. If the City of Newport does not respond in writing within five business days of receipt of the request for disclosure, the requestor should consider contacting the public records officer to determine the reason for the failure to respond.

(4) Protecting rights of others. In the event that the requested records contain information that may affect rights of others and may be exempt from disclosure, the public records officer may, prior to providing the records, give notice to such others whose rights may be affected by the disclosure. Such notice should be given so as to make it possible for those other persons to contact the requestor and ask him or her to revise the request, or, if necessary, seek an order from a court to prevent or limit the disclosure. The notice to the affected persons will include a copy of the request.

(5) Records exempt from disclosure. Some records are exempt from disclosure, in whole or in part. If the City of Newport believes that a record is exempt from disclosure and should be withheld, the public records officer will state the specific exemption and provide a brief explanation of why the record or a portion of the record is being withheld. If only a portion of a record is exempt from disclosure, but the remainder is not exempt, the public records officer will redact the exempt portions, provide the non-exempt portions, and indicate to the requestor why portions of the record are being redacted.

(6) Inspection of records.

(a) Consistent with other demands, the City of Newport shall promptly provide space to inspect public records. No member of the public may remove a document from the viewing area or disassemble or alter any document. The requestor shall indicate which documents he or she wishes the agency to copy.

(b) The requestor must claim or review the assembled records within thirty days of the City of Newport notification to him or her that the records are available for inspection or copying. The agency will notify the requestor in writing of this requirement and inform the requestor that he or she should contact the agency to make arrangements to claim or review the records. If the requestor or a representative of the requestor fails claim or review the records within the thirty-day period or make other arrangements, the City of Newport may close the request and refile the assembled records. Other public records requests can be processed ahead of a subsequent request by the same person for the same or almost identical records, which can be processed as a new request.

(7) Providing copies of records. After inspection is complete, the public records officer or designee shall make the requested copies or arrange for copying.

(8) Providing records in installments. When the request is for a large number of records, the public records officer or designee will provide access for inspection and copying in installments, if he or she reasonably determines that it would be practical to provide the records in that way. If, within thirty days, the requestor fails to inspect the entire set of records or one or more of the installments, the public records officer or designee may stop searching for the remaining records and close the request.

(9) Completion of inspection. When the inspection of the requested records is complete and all requested copies are provided, the public records officer or designee will indicate that the City of Newport has completed a diligent search for the requested records and made any located non-exempt records available for inspection.

(10) Closing withdrawn or abandoned request. When the requestor either withdraws the request or fails to fulfill his or her obligations to inspect the records or pay the deposit or final payment for the requested copies, the public records officer will close the request and indicate to the requestor that the City of Newport has closed the request.

(11) Later discovered documents. If, after the City of Newport has informed the requestor that it has provided all available records, the City of Newport becomes aware of additional responsive documents existing at the time of the request, it will promptly inform the requestor of the additional documents and provide them on an expedited basis.

V. EXEMPTIONS

(1) The Public Records Act provides that a number of types of documents are exempt from public inspection and copying. In addition, documents are exempt from disclosure if any "other statute" exempts or prohibits disclosure. Requestors should be aware of the following exemptions, outside the Public Records Act, that restrict the availability of some documents held by the City of Newport for inspection and copying. Please see Exhibit A.

(2) The City of Newport is prohibited by statute from disclosing lists of individuals for commercial purposes.

VI. COSTS OF PROVIDING COPIES OF PUBLIC RECORDS

- (1) Costs for paper copies. There is no fee for inspecting public records. A requestor may obtain 8 ½ x 11 photocopies for 15 cents per page. Other sized copies are available at a higher cost.

Before beginning to make the copies, the public records officer or designee may require a deposit of up to ten percent of the estimated costs of copying all the records selected by the requestor. The public records officer or designee may also require the payment of the remainder of the copying costs before providing all the records, or the payment of the costs of copying an installment before providing that installment. The City of Newport will not charge sales tax when it makes copies of public records.

- (2) Costs for electronic records. 10 cents per page for records scanned into electronic format; 5 cents for every 4 electronic files or attachments uploaded to an email, cloud storage service or other electronic delivery system; 10 cents per gigabyte for transmitting records electronically. Technology expertise fees to prepare data compilations or customized electronic access services that are not used by the City will be charged at actual cost to the City and a 10% deposit of the estimated fees will be required.

- (3) Costs of mailing. The City of Newport may also charge actual costs of mailing, including the cost of the shipping container.

- (4) Payment. Payment may be made by cash, check, money order or credit card.

VII. REVIEW OF DENIALS OF PUBLIC RECORDS

- (1) Petition for internal administrative review of denial of access. Any person who objects to the initial denial or partial denial of a records request may petition in writing to the public records officer for a review of that decision. The petition shall include a copy of or reasonably identify the written statement by the public records officer or designee denying the request.


- (2) Consideration of petition for review. The public records officer shall promptly provide the petition and any other relevant information to the City Attorney. The City Attorney will promptly consider the petition and either affirm or reverse the denial within two business days following the City of Newport's receipt of the petition, or within such other time as the City of Newport and the requestor mutually agree to.

- (3) Judicial review. Any person may obtain court review of denials of public records request pursuant to law at the conclusion of two business days after the initial denial regardless of any internal administrative appeal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Newport, Washington, that this Resolution sets forth the official Public Records Policy of the City of Newport.

This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force from the date of passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of January, 2018.

By 
Shirley Sands, Mayor

Attest:



Nickole North, MMC, CPFA

City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

Telephonically Approved

By: 

Tom Metzger

City Attorney

CITY OF NEWPORT PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY

EXHIBIT A

EXEMPTION AND PROHIBITION STATUTES

Washington State Statutes

<u>RCW 2.64.111</u>	Judicial conduct commission investigations of judges and initial proceedings
<u>RCW 4.24.550</u>	Information on sex offenders
<u>RCW 4.24.601</u> and <u>.611</u>	Trade secrets and confidential research, development or commercial information re products or business methods
<u>RCW 5.60.060</u>	Privileged communications
<u>RCW 5.60.070</u> ; <u>RCW 7.07.070</u>	Mediation records
<u>RCW 7.68.140</u>	Victims' compensation claims
<u>RCW 7.69A.030(4)</u>	Name, address and photograph of child victim or child witness
<u>RCW 7.69A.050</u>	Child victims and witnesses of certain crimes – protection of address
<u>RCW 7.75.050</u>	Records of Dispute Resolution Centers
<u>RCW 9.02.100</u>	Reproductive privacy
<u>RCW 9.41.097(2)</u>	Mental health information re persons buying pistols or applying for CPLs
<u>RCW 9.41.129</u>	Concealed pistol license applications

<u>RCW 9.73.230</u>	Name of confidential informants in written report on wire tapping
<u>RCW 9.51.050</u>	Disclosing transaction of grand jury
<u>RCW 9.51.060</u>	Disclosure of grand jury deposition
<u>RCW 9.73.090(1)(c)</u>	Prohibition on disclosure of law enforcement dash cam videos until final disposition of litigation
<u>RCW 9A.44.138</u>	Offender registration information given to high school or institution of higher education re an employee or student
<u>RCW 9A.82.170</u>	Financial institution records re criminal profiteering act
<u>RCW 10.27.090</u>	Grand jury testimony/evidence
<u>RCW 10.27.160</u>	Grand jury reports – release to public only by judicial order
<u>RCW 10.52.100</u>	Records identifying child victims of sexual assault
<u>RCW 10.77.205</u>	Information re victims, next of kin, or witnesses requesting notice of release of person found not guilty of a sex, violent, or felony harassment offense by reason of criminal insanity and the notice itself
<u>RCW 10.52.100</u>	Records identifying child victim of sexual assault
<u>RCW 10.77.210</u>	Records of persons committed for criminal insanity
<u>RCW 10.97.040</u>	Criminal history information released must include disposition, with some exceptions
<u>RCW 10.97.050</u>	Conviction and criminal history information
<u>RCW 10.97.060</u>	Deletion of certain criminal history record information, conditions
<u>RCW 10.97.070</u>	Disclosure of identity of suspect to victim
<u>RCW 10.97.080</u>	Inspection of criminal record by subject
<u>RCW 10.97.130</u>	Information about victims of sexual assault under age eighteen
<u>RCW 10.101.020(3)</u>	Information given by an accused regarding determination for indigent defense
<u>RCW 13.34.115</u>	Court dependency proceedings
<u>RCW 13.40.217</u>	Juveniles adjudicated of sex offenses – release of information
<u>RCW 13.50.010</u>	Maintenance of and access to juvenile records
<u>RCW 13.50.050</u>	Juvenile offender records
<u>RCW 13.50.100</u>	Juvenile/children records not relating to offenses
<u>RCW 13.60.020</u>	Missing children or endangered person information
<u>RCW 18.04.405</u>	Confidentiality of information gained by CPA
<u>RCW 18.19.060</u>	Notification to clients by counselors
<u>RCW 18.19.180</u>	Confidential communications with counselors
<u>RCW 19.215.020</u>	Destruction of personal health and financial information
<u>RCW 19.34.240(3)</u>	Private digital signature keys

<u>RCW 19.215.030</u>	Compliance with federal rules
<u>RCW 26.04.175</u>	Name and address of domestic violence victim in marriage records
<u>RCW 26.12.170</u>	Reports of child abuse/neglect with courts
<u>RCW 26.23.050</u>	Child support orders
<u>RCW 26.23.120</u>	Child support records
<u>RCW 26.26.041</u>	Uniform Parentage Act – protection of participants
<u>RCW 26.26.450</u>	Confidentiality of genetic testing
<u>RCW 26.33.330</u>	Sealed court adoption records
<u>RCW 26.33.340</u>	Agency adoption records
<u>RCW 26.33.343</u>	Access to adoption records by confidential intermediary
<u>RCW 26.33.380</u>	Adoption – identity of birth parents confidential
<u>RCW 26.44.010</u>	Privacy of reports on child abuse and neglect
<u>RCW 26.44.031</u>	Information related to reports of child abuse or neglect
<u>RCW 26.44.125</u>	Reports, reviews and hearings related to a review of abuse finding
<u>RCW 27.53.070</u>	Records identifying the location of archaeological sites
<u>RCW 29A.08.720</u>	Voter registration records – place of registration and any decision not to register to vote confidential
<u>RCW 29A.08.710</u>	Voter registration records – certain information exempt
<u>RCW 35.102.145</u>	Municipal business and occupation tax – local ordinance can protect return or tax information
<u>RCW 36.28A.060(8)</u>	Tactical and intelligence information provided to WASPC
<u>RCW 39.10.470(2)</u>	Alternative public works - trade secrets or other proprietary information submitted by bidder in connection with an alternative public works transaction if data identified and reasons stated in writing
<u>RCW 39.10.470(3)</u>	Alternative public works – proposals submitted by design-build finalists until notification of highest scoring finalist is made
<u>RCW 42.23.070(4)</u>	Municipal officer disclosure of confidential information prohibited
<u>RCW 42.41.030(7)</u>	Identity of local government whistleblower
<u>RCW 42.41.045</u>	Non-disclosure of protected information (whistleblower)
<u>RCW 43.43.762</u>	Contents of statewide criminal street gang database
<u>RCW 46.52.065</u>	State toxicologist records relating to analyses of blood samples
<u>RCW 46.52.080</u>	Traffic accident reports – confidentiality
<u>RCW 46.52.083</u>	Traffic accident reports – available to interested parties
<u>RCW 46.52.120</u>	Traffic crimes and infractions – confidential use by police and courts
<u>RCW 46.52.130(2)</u>	Abstract of driving record – limited disclosure

<u>RCW 48.62.101</u>	Local government insurance/risk management liability reserve funds established to settle claims
<u>RCW 50.13.060</u>	Access to employment security records by local government agencies
<u>RCW 50.13.100</u>	Disclosure of confidential employment security records allowed if identifying information deleted or with consent
<u>RCW 51.28.070</u>	Worker's compensation records confidential – limited disclosure
<u>RCW 51.36.060</u>	Physician information on injured workers
<u>RCW 60.70.040</u>	No duty to disclose record of common law lien
<u>RCW 68.50.105</u>	Autopsy reports – confidential – limited disclosure
<u>RCW 68.50.320</u>	Dental identification records – available to law enforcement agencies
<u>Ch. 70.02 RCW</u>	Medical records – access and disclosure – entire chapter (information from HC providers)
<u>RCW 70.05.170</u>	Child mortality reviews by local health departments
<u>RCW 70.24.022</u>	Public health agency information regarding sexually transmitted disease investigations - confidential
<u>RCW 70.24.024</u>	Transcripts and records of hearings regarding sexually transmitted diseases
<u>RCW 70.28.020</u>	Local health department TB records – confidential
<u>RCW 70.41.200</u>	Hospital quality improvement committee records and accreditation reports
<u>RCW 70.48.100</u>	Jail records and booking photos
<u>RCW 70.58.055</u>	Birth certificates – certain information confidential
<u>RCW 70.58.104</u>	Vital records, research confidentiality safeguards
<u>RCW 70.94.205</u>	Washington Clean Air Act – confidentiality of data.
<u>RCW 70.96A.150</u>	Registration and other records of alcohol and drug abuse treatment programs
<u>RCW 70.123.075</u>	Client records of domestic violence programs
<u>RCW 70.125.065</u>	Records of community sexual assault program and underserved populations provider in discovery
<u>RCW 71.05.425</u>	Notice of release or transfer of committed person after offense dismissal
<u>RCW 71.05.445</u>	Release of mental health information to Dept. of Corrections
<u>RCW 71.05.620</u>	Access to court records related to mental health cases under chapter 71.05 RCW
<u>RCW 71.24.035(5)(g)</u>	Mental health information system – state, county and regional support networks – confidentiality of client records
<u>RCW 71.34.335</u>	Mental health treatment of minors – records confidential
<u>RCW 71A.14.070</u>	Records regarding developmental disability – confidentiality

<u>RCW 72.09.345</u>	Notice to public about sex offenders – department of corrections access to information
<u>RCW 72.09.585</u>	Disclosure of inmate records to local agencies – confidentiality
<u>RCW 73.04.030</u>	Veterans discharge papers exemption (see related RCW 42.56.440)
<u>RCW 74.04.060</u>	Applicants and recipients of public assistance
<u>RCW 74.04.520</u>	Food stamp program confidentiality
<u>RCW 74.13.075(5)</u>	Juvenile's status as a sexually aggressive youth and related info
<u>RCW 74.13.280</u>	Children in out-of-home placements - confidentiality
<u>RCW 74.20.280</u>	Child support enforcement – local agency cooperation, information
<u>RCW 74.34.095</u>	Abuse of vulnerable adults - confidentiality of investigations and reports
<u>RCW 82.32.330</u>	Disclosure of tax information
<u>RCW 84.36.389</u>	Confidential income data in property tax records held by assessor
<u>RCW 84.40.020</u>	Confidential income data supplied to assessor regarding real property

Selected Federal Confidentiality Statutes and Rules

18 USC § 2721 - 2725	Driver and License Plate Information
20 USC § 1232g	Family Education Rights and Privacy Act
23 USC § 409	Evidence of certain accident reports
42 USC 290dd-2	Confidentiality of Substance Abuse Records
42 USC § 405(c)(2)(C)(viii) (I)	Limits on Use and Disclosure of Social Security Numbers.
42 USC 654(26)	State Plans for Child Support
42 USC 671(a)(8)	State Plans for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance
42 USC 1396a(7)	State Plans for Medical Assistance
7 CFR 272.1(c)	Food Stamp Applicants and Recipients
34 CFR 361.38	State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Programs
42 CFR Part 2 (2.1 - 2.67)	Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records
42 CFR 431.300 - 307	Safeguarding Information on Applicants and Recipients of Medical Assistance
42 CFR 483.420	Client Protections for Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded

42 CFR 5106a	Grants to States for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Treatment Programs
45 CFR 160-164	HIPAA Privacy Rule
46 CFR 40.321	USCG regulations regarding confidentiality