



# STATE OF INDIANA

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April 14, 2026

Re: Complaint 25-FC-221  
Shannon Parker of Prove All Things Audits [PATA] (Complainant) v.  
Valparaiso Police Department (Respondent)

This advisory opinion is issued in response to the above-referenced complaint filed on September 12, 2025.

A Notice of Complaint, along with a copy of the complaint, was sent to the Respondent on October 24, 2025, requesting a formal response by November 24, 2025. A formal response, submitted by Captain E. J. Hall on behalf of the Respondent, was received in this office on November 20, 2025.

The complaint alleges that Respondent violated the Access to Public Records Act (APRA) by charging excessive fees for copies of bodycam recordings.

## **ANALYSIS**

The public policy of APRA states that “[p]roviding persons with information is an essential function of a representative government and an integral part of the routine duties of public officials and employees, whose duty it is to provide the information.” Indiana Code (IC) 5-14-3-1. Respondent is a public agency for purposes of APRA; and therefore, subject to the requirements. IC 5-14-3-2(q). As a result, unless an exception applies, any person has the right to inspect and copy Respondent’s public records during regular business hours. IC 5-14-3-3(a).

APRA provides that a public agency may charge copy fees for the copying of paper documents and law enforcement recordings. A public agency may charge a fee for a law enforcement recording, uniform to all purchasers, that does not exceed the sum of the following:

*The agency’s direct cost of supplying the information in that form.  
However, the fee for a copy of a law enforcement recording may not exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). IC 5-14-3-8(g)(1).*

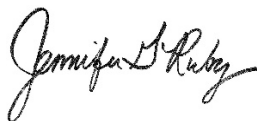
Complainant alleges that the Respondent violated APRA by charging more than the actual cost of producing the two (2) law enforcement recordings as requested. Complainant does not identify what it believes to be the actual cost of producing the videos, but requests that if Respondent is relying on action of the governing body that sets the fees by ordinance, then Complainant requested a copy of the ordinance. Respondent provided the requested copy of the Ordinance on October 1, 2025.

Respondent provided a copy of Ordinance 35.75, adopted by the Valparaiso City Council on May 14, 2018, setting the amounts for various copy charges, including \$150 for law enforcement recordings and providing for deposit of the fees to the Law Enforcement Recording Fund. There are no background discussions as to the data or supporting details that justified the fees to be charged in the documentation shared with Complainant.

The Respondent, in its formal response, elaborated on the costs: "VPD has annual costs of \$79,032.00 for maintaining our body camera and in-car camera systems, in addition to a minimum annual cost of \$6,091.20 for redaction software, needed to produce the copies." Respondent did not discuss the cost of staff time necessary to create the redacted copy, only the hardware and software costs. Respondent stated that it estimates that the fees for law enforcement recording collected annually are less than ten percent (10%) of the actual costs. Therefore, this office finds that the copy fees do not exceed the fees allowed under APRA.

## **CONCLUSION**

This office finds that the Respondent did not violate APRA as alleged in the complaint.



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