



YORK REGIONAL POLICE

Deputy Chief
Bruce Herridge

Chief of Police
Eric Jolliffe

Deputy Chief
Thomas Carrique

Vision-inspired Mission-focused Values-driven

Letter to the Editor
Toronto Star
1 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5E 1E6

October 11, 2011

To the Editor:

Re: Reports on missing weapons 'personal information,' York police say

The above-referenced story, written by reporter Jesse McLean, was inaccurately reported and contains numerous errors of fact and misleading statements which require correction. I am very disappointed at the lack of basic fact-checking by Toronto Star editors that allowed the story to be published.

On September 6, 2011, York Regional Police received a request from Mr. McLean regarding lost or stolen use of force equipment since 2005. We conducted a search for responsive records, which took approximately 7.5 hours.

Under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 45, we are permitted to charge fees for staff resources used to respond to requests that require extensive document searches. Our Freedom of Information analyst advised the reporter, via a letter delivered by courier on October 4, 2011, the fee associated to his request was \$225 and the records would not be released until the fee was received.

As a publicly-funded organization, York Regional Police has a responsibility to our taxpayers to operate in an efficient, cost-effective manner. We have not as yet received the fee from Mr. McLean.

At no time did York Regional Police advise the information would not be released. This is a clear error of fact and is grossly misleading to readers.



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17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, ON L3Y 4W5
1-866-876-5423 TTY 1-800-668-5810 www.yrp.ca info@yrp.ca

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In fact, what York Regional Police advised was that we would not be releasing the actual police reports regarding the lost or stolen property as it is our view they contain personal information about the officers involved. However, it is our practice to release non-personal information once the appropriate fee has been paid.

In addition, during a telephone conversation on Friday, October 7, 2011, Mr. McLean advised our Freedom of Information analyst the Toronto Police Service had released its reports to the reporter, clearly in an effort to persuade us to do the same. It seems Mr. McLean was not truthful when speaking to our analyst about information he received from other services because we know he has not received records regarding this request from that service.

During this same telephone conversation, Mr. McLean went on to say that should we not release the information he was requesting we could expect to be the subject of a negative story.

York Regional Police prides itself on being a transparent organization accountable to our community.

This letter serves to inform you about Mr. McLean's communications with York Regional Police and that these errors require correction immediately so Star readers have the true facts at hand.

Yours truly,

Eric Jolliffe, M.O.M., BA, CMM III,
Chief of Police.

EJ:kg



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