

BRENNAN  
CENTER  
FOR JUSTICE

Brennan Center for Justice  
*at New York University School of Law*

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December 23, 2014

**Via Certified Mail**

MPD Records Information Unit (RUI)  
350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 31  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
(612) 673-2961  
datapactices@minneapolismn.gov

**Re: Minnesota Government Data Practices Act**

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a request under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (“GDPA”), Minn. Stat. § 13 (2011), *et seq.*, on behalf of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law.

**Background**

The Brennan Center seeks records pertaining to a new program aimed at “countering violent extremism” (CVE). On April 15, 2014, a senior White House official announced a CVE envoy program designed to “coordinat[e] government engagement on the threat of homegrown violent extremism.”<sup>1</sup> And on September 15, 2014, Attorney General Eric Holder announced the creation of a CVE “pilot” program to begin in three cities,<sup>2</sup> one of which is Minneapolis.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Remarks by Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Lisa O. Monaco, Countering Violent Extremism and the Power of Community, Apr. 15, 2014 [hereinafter Monaco Speech], available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/04/16/remarks-assistant-president-homeland-security-and-counterterrorism-lisa->.

<sup>2</sup> See Press Release, Department of Justice, Attorney General Holder Announces Pilot Program to Counter Violent Extremists, Sept. 15, 2014, available at <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/attorney-general-holder-announces-pilot-program-counter-violent-extremists> [Holder Press Release].

<sup>3</sup> Amy Forliti, *Minneapolis-St. Paul 1 site of anti-terror program*, ASSOCIATED PRESS (Sept. 17, 2014, 12:41 AM), <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/doj-extremism-fight-could-take-cue-minnesota>; Brian Bennett, Joel Rubin & Victoria Kim, *L.A. chosen for pilot program on dissuading militant recruits*, L.A. TIMES (Sept. 22, 2014, 7:28 PM), <http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-terror-jihad-program-20140923-story.html>; Shelley Murphy, *Boston to host anti-extremist pilot program*, BOSTON GLOBE (Sept. 24, 2014), <http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/09/23/boston-site->

The Brennan Center is requesting information on the rules governing the involvement of the Minneapolis Police Department in these CVE programs.

**Request**

The Brennan Center specifically requests all information<sup>4</sup> relating to<sup>5</sup>:

1. All policies, procedures, and directives referencing the Minneapolis Police Department's participation in CVE programs, including:
  - a. Documents referring to the envoy program.<sup>6</sup>
  - b. Documents referring to the pilot programs announced by Attorney General Eric Holder in his September 2014 press release.<sup>7</sup>
  - c. Any other documents referring to CVE programs in Minneapolis.
  
2. All Memorandums of Understanding with outside agencies applicable to the Minneapolis Police Department's participation in CVE programs, including:
  - a. Documents referring to the envoy program.<sup>8</sup>
  - b. Documents referring to the pilot programs announced by Attorney General Eric Holder in his September 2014 press release.<sup>9</sup>
  - c. Documents referring to CVE programs in:
    - i. Minneapolis
    - ii. Saint Paul
    - iii. Los Angeles
    - iv. Boston

**Response Within A Reasonable Time**

Consistent with the GDPR, we ask that you release the responsive information promptly. Please provide the date, within a reasonable time, when the information will be available.<sup>10</sup> To the extent that your Department chooses to withhold any information based on one or more of the exceptions under the GDPR, please provide notice and a copy of the decision request to the Brennan Center within a reasonable time.<sup>11</sup> Should a part of any document contain information that is exempt from disclosure, please

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[program-prevent-residents-from-joining-extremist-groups/YpEpq2cYvITZ6u8AFkbarL/story.html](https://www.brennancenter.org/program-prevent-residents-from-joining-extremist-groups/YpEpq2cYvITZ6u8AFkbarL/story.html).

<sup>4</sup> The word "information" as used in this request encompasses all "government data" as defined in Minn. Stat. § 13.02(7) (2011).

<sup>5</sup> The words "relating to" should be interpreted to encompass the terms "containing information about, reflecting, identifying, mentioning, referring to, or summarizing."

<sup>6</sup> Monaco Speech, *supra* note 1.

<sup>7</sup> Holder Press Release, *supra* note 2.

<sup>8</sup> Monaco Speech, *supra* note 1.

<sup>9</sup> Holder Press Release, *supra* note 2.

<sup>10</sup> Minn. Stat. § 13.03(2) (2011).

<sup>11</sup> Minn. Stat. § 13.03(3)(f) (2011).

segregate and provide the non-exempt portion of the document. We also request that you provide us with the documents in electronic format where possible.

Should you have any questions concerning this request, please contact Shannon Parker by telephone at (646) 292 – 8363 or via e-mail at [shannon.parker@nyu.edu](mailto:shannon.parker@nyu.edu).

Sincerely,



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