

## **08/27/18 SPARKS CITY COUNCIL MEETING Agenda item: 1<sup>st</sup> PUBLIC COMMENT**

My name is Annemarie Grant. My brother was killed when Reno Police hog tied him during a mental health crisis at a casino he was a guest at. Instead of getting an ambulance they hog tied him for 40+ minutes as he begged for medical attention. They choose to keep a knee is his back with him face down while they filled out their paperwork before transporting him to Washoe County Jail and dumped him there still hog tied. The incompetent poorly trained deputies instead of getting my brother medical attention ignored his pleading that he couldn't breathe that he was going to die. HE told them that they were killing him. Four deputies then smothered my brother to death. Sparks PD did the so called independent investigation and found no wrong doing.

I write to you today as I have requested 10 police report files from Sparks PD. They told me it would cost \$1831.00. I have emailed the Mayor about this. He did respond saying he would refer to the city manager. I never heard from you again Mr. Mayor. It is as follows and my message to you all and the mayor still remains the same. These fees are ridiculous and certainly do not promote transparency.

My name is Annemarie Grant. I am writing to you in regards to public records request, made via the Freedom of Information Act, to Sparks PD. Originally I was left a voicemail stating the total would be \$55 being \$5 a case at 10 requested cases. The very next morning I received an email stating the total was \$1831. I am writing to you in hope's that I can receive assistance in rectifying this unreasonable fee that is being asked of a citizen. Surely the majority of the population in Sparks could not afford to hand over nearly TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS for documents that the public has a legal right to.

Responding to public records requests and providing openness are important governmental functions that the public already pays for through tax levies. While I understand NRS 239.052 allows a fee to be charged it clearly states that such fee shall MUST not exceed the actual cost to the governmental entity to provide the copy of the public record unless regulated by a specific statute. The NRS also states a governmental entity may waive all or a portion of the charge or fee for a copy of the public record. While Sparks PD does have a fee schedule listed it only states copies of police reports that take 30+ minutes or more to process or size MAY be subject to a research fee. However there is no mention of what that research fee is or how they determine it.

I had a similiar issue with Reno PD who initially requested \$633 from me for 10 public records requests. They have now reduced that fee significantly after I emailed the Washoe County Commissioner, Reno Mayor, and Reno City Council. I have no idea if that is why the price suddenly changed but it certainly was appropriate and appreciated. It seems painfully obvious that \$1800 is not a reasonable fee and the public has a right to these documents. These cases requested involve community members who were shot and killed by the police department. If any public records should be easily and reasonably accessible to the public these are them! Many people who end up having involvement with Sparks Police are indigent, homeless,

poor, and mentally vulnerable. This excessive fee is unreasonable for them and it's unreasonable for me. I am asking you to please help me rectify this situation. I have no problem with the original fee of \$55 that was quoted to me in a voicemail that I have saved on my phone. I can't help but feel the price changed because Sparks PD does not want these documents to see the light of day. I hope I am wrong and that you will assist in this matter. The release of the records at a legally reasonable fee is in the best interest of the public. We are entitled to know about the ongoings of our government federal and local. Your attention to this matter would be immensely appreciated