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November 3, 2011

Judy Kramer, Risk Management
Coordinator/FOIA Coordinator
Washtenaw County
220 N. Main, P. O. Box 8645
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645

Re: ***Receipt of Your Letter Dated October 27, 2011 Confirming Refusal of the Washtenaw County and the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Dept. to Return to Ypsilanti Township a Copy of a Portable Flash Drive (i.e. thumb drive) Prepared by Ypsilanti Township Residential Services Director Jeff Allen and Conveyed to Washtenaw County Special Investigator Brian Miller on Friday, March 11, 2011***

Dear Ms. Kramer:

This will confirm the receipt of your letter dated **October 27, 2011** wherein (for reasons that are totally inexplicable to me) you state, *inter alia*, that Washtenaw County "...**denies your** [Ypsilanti Township] **request**" for a copy of the portable flash drive that came from the Township's surveillance video and was given to Washtenaw County Special Investigator Brian Miller on March 11, 2011 by Township Residential Services Director Jeff Allen. In that regard, my letters dated **October 19 and October 26, 2011**, respectively, addressed to Undersheriff Mark A. Ptaszek were not written pursuant to the FOIA laws, but instead were simply written to retrieve from the Sheriff's Dept. a copy of the surveillance video that belongs to the Township.

Even assuming arguendo that my written requests were interpreted to be a request pursuant to FOIA, the exemption you cite in your letter which states that the video "...**in our possession was created for an internal investigation...**" is totally inapplicable since its disclosure would in no way, shape or form "**Interfere with law enforcement proceedings**", or any of the other exceptions listed in Section 13(1)(b).

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As you are well aware, Undersheriff Ptaszek, in a letter dated **April 18, 2011**, advised Ypsilanti Township Office of Community Standards Director Mike Radzik that the so-called "**internal investigation**" was completed and as such determined that "...**no credible evidence that the alleged act occurred and [did find] conclusive evidence clearing the Sheriff's Office employee.**" Undersheriff Ptaszek concluded his letter by stating that as far as the Sheriff's Dept. was concerned "**...the allegation is unfounded and the matter is closed.**" Thus, there is absolutely no reason, even under FOIA, that the Township cannot receive back from the Sheriff's Dept. the portable flash drive that was copied from the Township's surveillance camera and delivered to Special Investigator Miller.

In any event I have forwarded a copy of your **October 27** letter to the Township Board and will await further direction from the Board as to what action, if any, should be pursued so as to enable the Township to simply get back the video that came from the Township's security system. This refusal is both unfortunate and unnecessary and certainly does nothing to enhance the much needed cooperation between all levels of government in Washtenaw County.

Very truly yours,



Wm. Douglas Winters

rsk

cc: Curtis N. Hedger
Township Board
Mike Radzik
Jeff Allen