

From: **Kamran Afzal** <kafzal@hopewellva.gov>
Date: Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 2:57 PM
Subject: Written Comments for June 14 Subcommittee Meeting
To: foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov <foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov>

I am writing to you in opposition of both HB 2000 and HB 2196.

HB 2000

For most departments, including ours, dealing with FOIA related issues is a daily occurrence. Like the overwhelming number of department, our staff performs multiple functions and this bill is inviting frivolous FOIA request. As it is we are inundated with such request and prohibiting municipalities from charging even the nominal fees is beyond comprehension. Legislation are meant to address specific problems, not sure that this is solving anything other than someone's ideology. We don't live in a perfect world where folks are only requesting information that they should have, we believe in transparency like everyone else. We as an organization and the city oppose this provision.

HB 2196

We are oppose to provision of releasing law enforcement disciplinary records as defined in this proposed legislation. This is broad beyond reasonableness. Our internal investigations compel our employees to provide a statement and these provisions will have the opposite effect where the we will not have things report to us. Contrary to popular belief, we and every department that I have worked in, creates more complaints internally then externally from a wide margin. I believe we had 4 or 5 complaints generated externally last year whereas we generated 35-40 complaints internally. This will pretty much stop that practice where officers bring things to our attention, most are minor infractions.

We use internal investigations as a learning tool and this provision will have the opposite effect where we can catch a troubling behavior early on and resolve it. We are mandated, if we find allegations of criminal behavior to report the behavior for criminal matter. Not sure what the intent here is but as it is we are having a hard time recruiting and more importantly retaining our trained professionals in this profession, this will not help. Maybe a little more thought should be given on the type of behavior that we don't want and having a conversation on whether they should be made public upon demand.

As it is written, bad policy, bad law, very opposed to it.

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