

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF RACING

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR



WILLIAM J. WALSH
DIRECTOR

August 15, 2012

Christine Dorchak
GREY2K USA
P.O. Box 442117
Summerville, MA 02144

Dear Ms. Dorchak,

I write to address certain statements you made in your "eNews" request of August 8 encouraging your readers to send letters to both me, the Director of the Arizona Department of Racing, and the Governor's office here in Arizona. Specifically I want to comment on the following two remarks:

You wrote: "In February 2011, GREY2K USA released an otherwise comprehensive Report on Greyhound Racing in Arizona. This report contained the following clarification: 'Since November 2009, the Arizona Department of Racing has denied multiple public information requests for additional injury data.'"

I want to be clear on one matter. The Department of Racing has not "denied" GREY2K access to any public records it maintains. This Department has on multiple occasions responded to certain requests for injury reports by stating that it does not maintain this kind of record. You and I had a discussion after an Arizona Racing Commission meeting earlier this year on this very issue and I made that point clear then and you understood it then. If we have the information, we are obligated to send it to you upon receipt of a Public Records Request (PRR). And we will.

Since January 1, 2012, ADOR has received 26 PRRs from GREY2K and in response prepared 4,930 pages of material and have forwarded to your organization 1,930 pages. [The discrepancy of 3,000 pages in the previous sentence is due to the fact that after receiving one of your requests and processing it, you (or someone associated with your organization) stated that you did not want it all. Of course ADOR still spent a considerable amount of time and paper processing that request.] The bottom line in this respect is that we cannot produce documents that we do not maintain but we have repeatedly demonstrated our willingness to comply with the public records law.

Your further wrote: "Yesterday, we received proof that Dr. Andrew Carlton, Chief Veterinarian for the Department has in fact been in possession of injury documentation. This suggests that the agency has been playing hide-and-seek with the public record."

This is a mischaracterization of the truth. You did not receive "proof" of the sort you allege and your suggestion "that the agency has been playing hide-and-seek with the public record" is simply wrong. In the instance described here, Dr. Carlton reviewed, but did not take possession of, certain injury reports. All of the information he reported to the Department, at my request, was then passed on to you or your organization following receipt of a PRR as part of a 550 page document response.

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This Department takes pride in how it conducts its business and will not intentionally withhold public records in response to a legitimate public records request. In the interest of fairness, I ask that you publish this letter for the benefit of your readers in its entirety.

Sincerely,



William J. Walsh
Director