



NYCLU

NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

125 Broad Street
New York, NY 10004
212.607.3300
212.607.3318
www.nyclu.org

December 21, 2011

Records Access Officer
NYPD FOIL Unit
1 Police Plaza, Room 110 C
New York, New York 10038

Re: Freedom of Information Law Request

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a request for records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law (“FOIL”), Article 6 of the Public Officers Law.

We hereby request disclosure of all records in the NYPD’s possession regarding the deployment, use, management and operation of Long Range Acoustical Devices (LRADs). For purposes of this request, an LRAD is any device that uses sound waves, sound pressure, generated noise, or focused sound as a means of crowd control or as a means of communicating official instructions during demonstrations, rallies, protests or similar events.

Specifically, we request disclosure of the following records:

- 1) All records describing any LRADs in the NYPD’s possession, including manufacturer’s instructions or manuals; records identifying the manufacturer, trade name, make and/or model number, identifying characteristics, and physical dimensions; and acoustic specifications, including decibel levels (dBA) across the full range of frequencies (Hz) and over a range of distances.
- 2) All records, including directives, policies, manuals, and/or memoranda, created or adopted by the NYPD pertaining to the operation of LRADs, including any descriptions of the circumstances under which LRADs are to be operated, and the chain of command through which authority to station, position and operate LRADs is granted.
- 3) All records that indicate the dates and times at which the NYPD has stationed, positioned, and/or operated one or more LRADs between September 1, 2011 and December 21, 2011, including records that explain how and why such devices were utilized.

- 4) Records, including memoranda, emails and other correspondence, both internal to the NYPD and external (e.g., with other police departments, state police and/or security agencies, federal police and/or security agencies) pertaining to the use of LRADs.

To the extent that the NYPD believes that information contained in the requested records is protected, please redact such information and provide us with the remaining information. In the event that all or part of this request is denied, please cite each specific applicable FOIL exemption and notify us of appeal procedures available under the law.

To the extent that these records are readily available in an electronic format, we request that they be provided in that format. Please disclose records as soon as they are identified, rather than waiting to gather all records.

Please contact Katherine Bromberg by phone at 212-607-3337 or by email at kbromberg@nyclu.org with any questions. Thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Katherine Bromberg