



KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

ALABAMA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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HAL TAYLOR
SECRETARY

October 27, 2023

VIA E-MAIL [cannon@karchmarlambert.com]

Mr. Cannon Lambert
Karchmar & Lambert, P.C.
211 W. Wacker Drive, Ste. 1400
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Lambert:

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency ("ALEA") has reviewed your Request for Disclosure of Audio/Video Recording dated October 23, 2023.

As you have acknowledged, the disclosure requested involves a recording of subject matter under active investigation by law enforcement. ALEA's State Bureau of Investigations ("SBI") is in the process of collecting evidence and creating an investigative report for submission to the appropriate District Attorney's office.

Alabama Code § 36-21-213 provides that a "custodial law enforcement agency may choose to not disclose the recording if the disclosure would affect an ongoing active law enforcement investigation or prosecution." ALEA has a longstanding practice of not releasing body-worn camera footage without a subpoena or court order because doing so, especially before a case is sent to a grand jury, would affect the investigation or prosecution.

In this case, it is our agency's judgment that disclosing the requested recording at this time would affect SBI's ongoing investigation. Therefore, in accordance with state law, in the interest of protecting the constitutional rights of all involved, and in the interest of prioritizing a thorough law enforcement investigation of the recorded subject matter, ALEA respectfully declines to make the disclosure you have requested while the investigation remains pending.

In the meantime, know that SBI intends to make every reasonable effort to complete this important investigation in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Chris Inabinett
Director
Alabama Law Enforcement Agency
State Bureau of Investigations