

FIRST TWO VISITS:

OCT. 21

NOV. 6

Smithfield

Documents Not Received



School Committee Minutes:

- Readability: Good
- Thoroughness: Average
- Layout: Average
- Legal Compliance: Full

City/Town Council Minutes:

- Readability: Average
- Thoroughness: Good
- Layout: Poor
- Legal Compliance: None

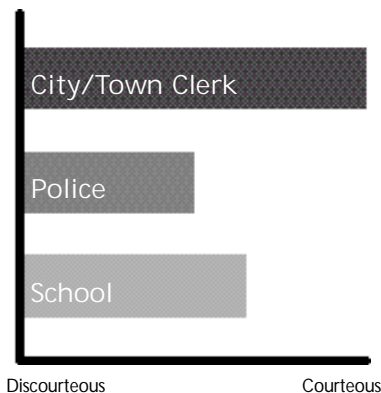
With the exception of the Town Clerk’s office, Smithfield appears to be one of the worst towns in the state in complying with the Open Records Law. The Police did not comply with any of the requests and were rated as very discourteous. In fact, Smithfield is one of the worst experiences at any police department across the state.

Smithfield Town Clerks, however, were very courteous and complied with all of the requests. Also none of the requests that were fulfilled required a second visit to obtain the documents. However, the school contract required a second visit.

“ I went to the Smithfield Police Department to view the log. The dispatch officer asked what I wanted to do with it and I said that I just wanted to look at it. He made a phone call and soon a woman, came in and asked why I wanted the log. She then got a sergeant who also asked why I wanted the log. I said I was a concerned citizen. He asked if there was anything in the log that concerned me personally and I replied no. He then got the officer in charge who led me down a hall to his office. He also asked why I wanted to see the log and if I lived in Smithfield. He then went into a monologue about what is and is not a public record and what the police did not have to let the public view. He interrogated me, asking questions such as if I had reason to think the Smithfield police were watching me or if I had done anything wrong in the town that day and wanted to see if the police knew about it. When he finally finished, I got up to leave and he asked me what I had in my jacket pocket. I had sunglasses and a pen. He implied I was taping the conversation. He asked me for identification. I gave him my driver’s license, and he went into the lobby and photocopied it and sent me on my way. I was never able to see the log.

The Smithfield School Department were very tough people to get information from. When I asked for minutes and agendas, they asked who I was, if I was a parent or a student and why I wanted them. Eventually the assistant superintendent came out to tell me I could have them. ”

How We Were Treated



Comparison: Cities/Towns

