



## DISTRICT LEGAL GROUP, PLLC

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## **FAMILY OF JULIAN BAILEY APPEALS MPD'S DENIAL OF PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST FOR VIDEO AND REPORTS OF FATAL SHOOTING**

*Decision on Whether to Release the Footage and Records Now Rests with the Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The family of Julian Marquette Bailey has filed a formal appeal of the Metropolitan Police Department's decision to withhold every record and every second of video relating to the February 11, 2026, shooting that took Mr. Bailey's life in the 3700 block of Hayes Street NE. The appeal, filed under the District of Columbia Freedom of Information Act, is directed to the Mayor's Office of Legal Counsel, placing the decision on whether the public will see the requested footage and reports squarely in the hands of the Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser.

On March 27, 2026, counsel for Mr. Bailey's widow, Trenise Bailey, and the Estate of Julian Bailey submitted FOIA Request No. R006375-032726 to MPD. The request sought MPD closed-circuit surveillance camera footage of the 3700 block of Hayes Street NE from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on February 11, 2026, the public-street cameras nearest to where Mr. Bailey was shot at approximately 2:20 p.m., together with the police report and any investigative reports generated to date. The family attached Mr. Bailey's death certificate which stated that the cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds.

By letter dated May 8, 2026, MPD denied the request in its entirety. The denial cites four exemptions under D.C. Official Code § 2-534, subsections (a)(2), (a)(2A), (a)(3)(A)(i), and (a)(3)(C), and offers no record-specific justification, no segregability analysis, and no description of the materials withheld.



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Not a single page, and not a single frame of video, was released. The letter states the investigation is ongoing.

### **The Decision Now Before Mayor Bowser's Office**

Under D.C. Official Code § 2-537 and 1 DCMR § 412, an applicant whose FOIA request has been denied may appeal to the Mayor or to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The Bailey family has elected to appeal to the Mayor. The appeal will be reviewed by the Mayor's Office and is the final administrative step before any disclosure decision by the Courts.

Mayor Bowser's Office is therefore the deciding authority on whether the citizens of the District of Columbia, and the family of Julian Bailey, will be permitted to see the video and records of how Mr. Bailey came to be shot and killed on a public street in Northeast Washington.

### **Why the Family Says the Records Must Be Released**

The appeal argues that the four exemptions cited by MPD do not, individually or in combination, support a categorical refusal to produce the records:

- The body-worn camera exemption in § 2-534(a)(2A) does not apply. The request seeks footage from MPD's public-street CCTV cameras, not body-worn camera recordings; the incident occurred outdoors on a public block, not inside a personal residence; and the underlying encounter does not meet the statutory definitions of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault that the exemption requires.
- The personal privacy exemptions in § 2-534(a)(2) and (a)(3)(C) cannot justify total withholding. Mr. Bailey is the decedent, his family is the requester, and government officers acting in their official capacity on a public street are not entitled to anonymity for those acts.
- The law-enforcement interference exemption in § 2-534(a)(3)(A)(i) requires the agency to identify a specific enforcement proceeding and a specific harm. MPD's denial letter does neither. Public-street CCTV footage reveals no investigative technique and identifies no confidential source.
- D.C. Official Code § 2-534(b) requires the release of every reasonably segregable portion of any record, with written justification for each redaction. MPD provided neither.



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### **Statements**

The following statement is attributable to Andrew O. Clarke, attorney for the Estate of Julian Bailey and his widow, Trenise Bailey:

*“Julian Bailey was shot and killed on a public street in the District of Columbia, and nearly three months later his family still has not been told how or why. The District’s Freedom of Information Act exists for exactly this moment, to ensure that the people of this city can see how their government uses the most serious power it holds. MPD has refused to release a single record. The decision now sits with Mayor Bowser’s Office, and we are asking the Mayor’s Office to do what the law requires: release the CCTV footage, release the reports, and let the public see the truth.”*

### **Background**

On February 11, 2026, at approximately 2:20 p.m., Julian Marquette Bailey was shot and killed in the 3700 block of Hayes Street NE in Washington, D.C. Mr. Bailey was 43 years old and a District resident. He is survived by his wife, Trenise Bailey.

FOIA Request No. R006375-032726 was submitted to MPD on March 27, 2026 by counsel for the Estate. MPD’s denial letter, signed by Supervisory FOIA Specialist Danyele Coffey, is dated May 8, 2026. The appeal is being submitted to the Mayor’s Office of Legal Counsel pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-537 and 1 DCMR § 412, with a copy to MPD’s Freedom of Information Officer.

A copy of the appeal is available to credentialed members of the media upon request to the contact listed above.

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