

May 26, 2011

Mr. Charles Totto, Executive Director
Honolulu Ethics Commission
ethics@honolulu.gov

Dear Mr. Totto:

RE: Formal Complaint Against Timothy Houghton, Executive Assistant to Timothy Steinberger of the Department of Environmental Services (“DES”)

I am hereby submitting this complaint against Timothy Houghton of DES, for providing me with false information, and for misrepresenting facts pertaining to my request for public records regarding the death of about 10 feral cats who lived at the Pearl City Yard.

Here are the facts:

I am President of Animal Advocate Inc. in Honolulu. I received information that an employee at the Pearl City Yard, Richard Crabbe, was instructed by superiors to trap the feral cats who lived there and take them to the Hawaiian Humane Society.

On October 27, 2010, I taped conversations between myself and Robert Primiano, and myself and David Shirashi, of the Pearl City Yard. Both employees said there were emails and other documents generated, pertaining to the feral cat situation.

On November 7, 2010, I filed a formal written request for records with Mr. Steinberger, for documents pertaining to the trapping of feral cats at the Pearl City Yard and for then taking said cats to the Hawaiian Humane Society where they all were put to death.

On November 30, 2010, I received a letter from Timothy Houghton, telling me DES has “completed our records search and have not identified any records of the City related to your request.”

On December 12, 2010, I filed a formal complaint with OIP for the denial of records.

On May 18, 2011, DES wrote a letter saying that they are providing me with the requested emails. This was being done because DES wanted to “refute my accusations that they failed to disclose and then destroyed public documents.”

Obviously, the documents exist, and yet I was falsely informed by Mr. Houghton that they searched for the records but did not identify any records related to my

request. Mr. Houghton insisted that there were no documents, and he ignored my request and even OIP's letter, for many months. It is only because I have the tape recordings that Mr. Houghton was finally compelled to provide the public documents I requested.

This is a case of complete misrepresentation of the facts by this government employee. Mr. Houghton should be reprimanded for providing false and misrepresented information to the public, who is trying to gain access to public records.

Should you need further information pertaining to this complaint, please contact me at my email address, which is: liberate@hawaii.rr.com

Sincerely,

Pamela Davis
President, Animal Advocate Inc.
Honolulu, Hawaii