November 21, 2003

Alan Cote
Supervisor of Public Records
Office of the Secretary of State
John W. McCormack Building
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Mr. Cote:

This is an appeal from the refusal of the Police Department of the City of Cambridge to make available certain public records.

On October 31, 2003, I wrote to Police Commissioner Ronnie Watson on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts for the stated purpose of “learning whether the City of Cambridge ha[d] entered into an agreement with the Department of Justice or the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning the department’s participation in the Joint Terrorism Task Force (‘JTTF’).” Toward that end, I requested a copy of the following records made or received by the Cambridge Police Department:

1. All records of communications between the FBI and the Cambridge Police Department or any officer, employee or attorney of the Cambridge Police Department concerning participation in the JTTF by the Cambridge Police Department or its police officers; and

2. Any formal intergovernmental agreements, memoranda of understanding or memoranda of agreement concerning participation in the JTTF by the Cambridge Police Department or its police officers.

A copy of that letter is attached as Exhibit A. Similar requests were sent to the Massachusetts State Police, the Boston Police Department, the New Bedford Police Department, the Springfield Police Department, the Lowell Police Department, the Lawrence Police Department, the Fall River Police Department, the Worcester Police Department and the University of Massachusetts.
As of this date, the city of Cambridge has failed or refused to reply to this request. I therefore request that the Cambridge Police Department be ordered to comply with the requirements of G.L. c. 66, § 10 and to provide us with the records which we have requested.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Reinstein

Encl.

cc: Police Commissioner Ronnie Watson