Las Vegas comments
September 6, 2019

The Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) was designed to allow the public access to “the greatest possible information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of public officers and employees.” Section 14-2-5. See also San Juan Agr. Water Users Ass’n v. KNME-TV, 2011-NMSC-011, ¶ 16, 150 N.M. 64, 257 P.3d 884, 888 (observing that “IPRA is intended to ensure that the public servants of New Mexico remain accountable to the people they serve”). IPRA provides the public with the right to inspect all “public records” with only limited and specifically enumerated exceptions. See § 14-2-1(A).

FOG’s position is that the public suffers the longer it has to wait until it gets public records.

Under IPRA, law enforcement records are “public unless the requested records reveal confidential sources, information or individuals accused but not charged with a crime.

This incident took place more than four months ago, it seems that should be ample time to investigate this crime.

The best way to ensure the public’s trust is to avoid secrecy.

IPRA is not a set of rigid legal requirements, it represents the ‘public policy’ of the State of New Mexico.