NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 2022

Office of Open Government Reports
Its Mid-Year Performance Statistics for 2022

MADISON, Wis. - In an effort to continue operating transparently and ensure accountability, the Office of Open Government today reported its mid-year performance statistics for January through June 2022.

Completed Activities

- Responded to 450 public records requests (approximately 75 per month);
- Released public records reports, video, and audio files related to 1 officer-involved critical incident;
- Responded to 123 inquiries on its Public Records/Open Meetings Help Line (PROM);
- Issued 28 letters providing guidance concerning open government; and
- Provided training and participated in educational presentations to governmental agencies on open government matters.

Response Times for Public Records Requests

According to the Wisconsin Public Records Law Compliance Guide, “DOJ policy is that 10 working days is generally a reasonable time for responding to a simple [public records] request for a limited number of easily identifiable records.”

Despite staff vacancies during the first half of the year, the office continues to maintain a large percentage of responses fulfilled within this 10-working-day guideline while at the same time responding to a high volume of requests. During the first six months of 2022, the office:
• Responded to approximately 49% of public records requests within the 10-working-day guideline.
• Responded to approximately 33% of all requests in 3 calendar days or less and responded to approximately 37% of all requests in 7 calendar days or less.
• Mean (average) response time for all responses was 54 calendar days, which includes those that were broader in scope or required time-intensive review.
• Median (50th percentile) response time for all responses was 18 calendar days, meaning that the office responded to 50% of all requests in 18 days or less.

As seen in the two charts (below and next page), the office responded to 450 public records requests in the first six months of 2022, a large number of which were complex and required time-intensive review. This number is over 65% of the total number of requests to which the office responded for the entirety of 2021. The office continues to respond to a high volume of requests.
Continuing Efforts

The office will continue to increase the public’s access to public records by posting the following information on its website:

- A snapshot of public records requests pending on Monday of each week;
- The average and median monthly response times for public records requests;
- Responses to citizen correspondence, posted quarterly;
- Specific responses to public records requests that may be of particular public interest or may be the subject of multiple requests for the same records;
- Records related to Officer-Involved Critical Incidents;
- “Ask the OOG” columns for frequently asked questions (FAQ’s); and
- Other open government information and resources.

The office reports directly to the Office of Attorney General. The office is headed by Assistant Attorney General Paul Ferguson, and is supported by one Records Forms Management Specialist-Advanced, one Records Forms Management Specialist, one Records Associate Program Associate-Advanced, one Records Program Associate-Advanced LTE, and several other attorneys and DCI employees within DOJ who regularly interact with the office.

For more information, visit the office’s website or contact the office at 608-267-2220.