November 18, 2016

Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein
New York State Assembly
LOB 831
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Assemblywoman Weinstein,

The Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (A.R.T.) urges you, as Chair of the Judiciary Committee, to support New York State Assembly bill A7682 that amends the civil practice law and rules and the criminal procedure law in relation to recordings found on police cameras. Founded in 1979, A.R.T. is a not-for-profit organization representing a diverse group of more than 550 archivists, librarians, and records managers in the metropolitan New York area.

Recordings created through the use of police body cameras and police vehicle mounted cameras are increasingly being used as evidence in investigations and criminal proceedings, and as such represent important documentation for government accountability. Bill A7682 would require full disclosure of police body and vehicle mounted recordings to all parties involved in a criminal proceeding or investigation, thus ensuring fairness in the judicial process. Furthermore, it is important that these materials are managed in accordance with applicable records management regulations and the Freedom of Information Law. The preservation of and access to this documentation is important as the recordings not only have evidential value, but in the long term have significant informational and historical value.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Kerri Anne Burke
President

Cc: Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein
    Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
    Assemblywoman Laloya Joyner
    Assemblyman N. Nick Perry
    Assemblyman Dan Quart
    Assemblywoman Rebecca A. Seawright
    Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon
    Assemblyman Matthew Titone
    Assemblywoman Michele R. Titus
    Assemblyman David I. Weprin