



November 18, 2016

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

The
**Archivists
Round Table**
of Metropolitan
New York,
Inc.

P.O. Box 151
New York
NY
10274-0154

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 650 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,

Kerri Anne Burke
President

Cc: Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein
Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
Assemblywoman Latoya 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