April 2, 2020

Via Email (dph.rao@state.ma.us)

Helen Rush-Lloyd
Records Access Officer
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Public Records Request

Dear Ms. Rush-Loyd:

This request ("Request") is submitted pursuant to the Public Records Act, G.L. c. 66, § 10 ("Public Records Act"), for public records in the custody of the Department of Public Health ("DPH"). As used in this Request, "public records" is defined as in the Public Records Act. The timeframe for this Request is January 1, 2020 to present.

I hereby request copies of the following public records:

1. All records, reflecting, indicating, or referencing the total number of individuals tested in Massachusetts for COVID-19, disaggregated by race and ethnicity.

2. All records, reflecting, indicating, or referencing the total number of individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 in Massachusetts, disaggregated by race and ethnicity.

3. All records, reflecting, indicating, or referencing the total number of individuals who were admitted to a hospital in Massachusetts for reasons related to COVID-19, disaggregated by race and ethnicity.

4. All records, reflecting, indicating, or referencing the total number of individuals who have died in Massachusetts due to COVID-19 and/or related complications, disaggregated by race and ethnicity.

The purpose of this request is to gain demographic information for individuals affected by COVID-19 in Massachusetts. The information will not be used for any commercial purpose. As this request involves a matter of public concern, we ask that all fees associated with this request be waived.
pursuant to 950 C.M.R. 32.06(5). If the waiver is denied and you expect the fee to exceed ten (10) dollars, please provide a detailed fee estimate.

The Public Records Law requires that you comply with this request within ten (10) days following receipt. If your response to any portion of the request is that any record or portion of it is not public, please set forth in writing the specific reasons for such denial, including which specific exemption you believe applies.

Should you have any questions about the scope of this Request, please contact me via email at jdempsey@lawyersforcivilrights.org or by phone at 617-984-5246 so that we may resolve any outstanding issues quickly. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Janelle H. Dempsey