

CV requests W-B crime data

The Citizens' Voice on Thursday filed the second of two Freedom of Information requests with the Wilkes-Barre Police Department in an effort to secure public documents containing city crime statistics.

The newspaper is seeking to show residents where the heaviest concentration of crime occurs in the city.

The FOI filings follow nearly two weeks of requests and negotiations with Wilkes-Barre Police Chief Gerald Dessoye. In the last two days, the newspaper also has made requests for information through city solicitor William Vinsko.

The Citizens' Voice first requested the statistics Friday, Aug. 5, three days after Mary Leo was murdered in her South Main Street apartment, above Abe's Lunch. Dessoye's initial response Monday, Aug. 8 indicated the department was waiting for a legal opinion before releasing the information.

Since then, police have refused to release incident reports, which outline their response to complaints. Instead, the chief has released only vague data concentrating on the South Wilkes-Barre murder scene. On Thursday, the department softened its stance and said it will cost the newspaper \$700 to secure the documentation it requested 13 days ago.

Attorneys for the Pennsylvania Newspapers Publishers Association and for The Citizens' Voice said Thursday, the requested crime statistics are public documents under the state's Right to Know Law.

Under the law, police have five business days to respond.

Jones can

By Robert Kalinowski
Staff Writer

After a crime-riddled life in New Jersey, Brian K. Jones arrived by bus in Wilkes-Barre last September looking to shed his drug addiction.

Less than a year later, Jones sits in jail charged with murdering an 87-year-old lifelong city resident in a drug-induced robbery.

In a sit-down interview with The Citizens' Voice from the Luzerne County Correctional Facility on Thursday, Jones spelled out the grim details of the day he says he stabbed Mary Leo to death inside her 419 S. Main St. apartment.

In between sips of coffee and puffs of cigarettes, which he says calms his nerves, he spoke candidly of his sordid criminal past and explained how and why he came to Wilkes-Barre.

Looking for help after being turned down by five New Jersey rehab clinics, Jones says friends referred him to a drug rehabilitation program run by The Salvation Army in Wilkes-Barre.

Jones, who was only free four months after a 10-year state prison sentence for an attempted murder conviction, said he called The Salvation Army on a Friday.

By Monday, he was moved in, living with other addicts, most of who came from Philadelphia and New York, he says.

After four months adhering to the program and staying clean, Jones said he quit in January after a dispute with counselors.

Officials who currently oper-

Out-of-area addicts us

By Tom Long
Staff Writer

In a brick building on Hazle Street in Wilkes-Barre, The Salvation Army takes in men with alcohol and drug addictions and tries to help them straighten out their lives.

Some of those men come from outside Northeastern

Capt. Foster said since he and his wife took over supervision of the

**'DO WE
TAKE A RISK?
WE DO. BUT I
THINK THE RISK**

program in February and instituted stricter drug testing requirements, the number of men from