



October 21, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Andrea Kipp, Records Supervisor
971 Jason Lopez Circle, Building C
P.O. Box 867
Florence, AZ 85132
Records Unit
pcsorecords@pinal.gov

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Ms. Kipp:

Pursuant to the Arizona Public Records Law, A.R.S. §§ 39-121 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your office promptly produce the following records:

1. All communications containing official or unofficial orders and directives communications sent by federal law enforcement (including messages from any email address ending in @dhs.gov, @ice.dhs.gov, @doj.gov, or @fbi.gov) to any of the following officials in the Pinal County Sheriff's Office:
 - a. Sheriff Mike Lamb
 - b. Chief Deputy Matthew Thomas
 - c. Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement Services Bryan Harrell
 - d. Deputy Chief Matthew Hendrick
2. All official or unofficial orders and directives sent by the Sheriff, Chief Deputy, Deputy of Law Enforcement Services, or Deputy Chief to any subordinate Sheriff's Office personnel or volunteers regarding investigations, evaluations, reviews, or probes into cases of potential election fraud or voter fraud, or otherwise concerning enforcement of election-related laws.
3. All email communications (including emails, attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation entries) sent by the Sheriff, Chief Deputy, Deputy of Law Enforcement Services, or Deputy Chief containing any of the following key terms:
 - a. Voting
 - b. Vote
 - c. Election
 - d. Ballot
 - e. Poll



For items 2 and 3 of this request, in an effort to accommodate your office and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited its request to emails sent by the officials listed above. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both Sheriff Lamb's response to an email containing one of the listed key terms and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

For each item of this request, please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2020, through date of search.

Statement of Noncommercial Purpose

This request is made for noncommercial purposes. American Oversight seeks records directly related to your office's activities concerning election-related laws during an historic presidential election cycle. Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government, including activities in which your office may be engaged that could relate to the integrity of the election.

Because American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, this request is not in American Oversight's financial interest and is not made for a commercial purpose. American Oversight's mission is to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.¹

Because this request is made for noncommercial purposes, American Oversight requests that any fees charged in connection with processing this request be limited to copying and postage charges, if applicable.² Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fees.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

¹ American Oversight currently has approximately 15,6300 page likes on Facebook and 105,500 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, FACEBOOK, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Oct. 20, 2020); American Oversight (@weareoversight), TWITTER, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Oct. 20, 2020).

² A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(1); *see also Hanania v. City of Tucson*, 128 Ariz. 135, 624 P.2d 332 (Ct. App. 1980). Furthermore, because this request is for noncommercial purposes,

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics.
- In conducting your search, please understand the terms “record,” “document,” and “information” in their broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind. We seek records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, as well as letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations or discussions.
- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages.
- If any records are withheld in full or in part, pursuant to A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(2), please provide an index of records or categories of records that have been withheld and the reasons the records or categories of records have been withheld.
- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.
- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

Conclusion

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate

additional fees provided for under A.R.S. § 39-121.03(A) are not applicable and should not be assessed.

to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Khahilia Shaw at records@americanoversight.org or 202.539.6507.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Austin R. Evers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Austin R. Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight