



January 12, 2023

**VIA U.S. MAIL**

Buchanan County Sheriff's Office  
PO Box 90  
Vansant, VA 24656

**Re: Virginia Freedom of Information Act Request**

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Va. Code Ann. § 2.2-3700, I, Heather Sawyer, a resident of Virginia, make the following request for records.

**Requested Records**

I request that the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office produce the following records within five working days:

1. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) and text messages or messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, Twitter direct messages, Facebook messages, WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, or Parler) between Sheriff John McLanahan and any of the specified external persons listed below (including, but not limited to, communications from the specified email addresses or domains).
  - a. John Eastman ([jeastman@claremont.org](mailto:jeastman@claremont.org), [jeastman@chapman.edu](mailto:jeastman@chapman.edu), [john.eastman@colorado.edu](mailto:john.eastman@colorado.edu), [jeastman@ccg1776.com](mailto:jeastman@ccg1776.com), or [jeastman562@gmail.com](mailto:jeastman562@gmail.com))
  - b. Anyone from the Claremont Institute ([claremont.org](http://claremont.org))
  - c. Michael Anton ([manton@hillsdale.edu](mailto:manton@hillsdale.edu))
  - d. David Azerrad ([dazerrad@hillsdale.edu](mailto:dazerrad@hillsdale.edu))
  - e. Glenn Ellmers ([ellmersg@gmail.com](mailto:ellmersg@gmail.com))
  - f. Heather MacDonald ([hmacdonald@manhattan-institute.org](mailto:hmacdonald@manhattan-institute.org))
  - g. Brian T. Kennedy ([briantraviskennedy@gmail.com](mailto:briantraviskennedy@gmail.com))
  - h. Arthur Milikh ([amilikh@claremont.org](mailto:amilikh@claremont.org))
  - i. Ronald T. Pestritto ([rpestritto@hillsdale.edu](mailto:rpestritto@hillsdale.edu))
  - j. Matthew J. Peterson ([mpeterson@claremont.org](mailto:mpeterson@claremont.org))
  - k. David Raney ([draney@hillsdale.edu](mailto:draney@hillsdale.edu))
  - l. Kyle Shideler ([kshideler@centerforsecuritypolicy.org](mailto:kshideler@centerforsecuritypolicy.org))
  - m. Ryan Williams ([rwilliams@claremont.org](mailto:rwilliams@claremont.org))
  - n. Scott Yenor ([syenor@boisestate.edu](mailto:syenor@boisestate.edu))
  - o. Catherine Engelbrecht, or anyone from True the Vote ([truethevote.org](http://truethevote.org) or [truethevote.com](http://truethevote.com))

- p. Anyone from Protect America Now (protectamericanow.com)
  - q. Gregg Phillips (patriotgames.com), or anyone from OPSEC Group LLC (opsec.group)
  - r. Pinal County, Arizona Sheriff Mark Lamb ([mark.lamb@pinal.gov](mailto:mark.lamb@pinal.gov), [mark.lamb@protonmail.com](mailto:mark.lamb@protonmail.com))
  - s. Culpeper County, Virginia Sheriff Scott Jenkins ([sheriffjenkins@culpepercountysheriffsoffice.com](mailto:sheriffjenkins@culpepercountysheriffsoffice.com), [sheriffjenkins@culpepercounty.gov](mailto:sheriffjenkins@culpepercounty.gov))
  - t. Former Livingston County, Illinois Sheriff Tony Childress ([tchildress@livingstoncountyil.gov](mailto:tchildress@livingstoncountyil.gov))
  - u. Former Bristol County, Massachusetts Sheriff Tom Hodgson ([sheriffhodgson@comcast.net](mailto:sheriffhodgson@comcast.net), [sheriff@bcso-ma.org](mailto:sheriff@bcso-ma.org))
2. Any agendas, handouts, presentation materials, or programs in the possession of Sheriff McLanahan related to the 2022 Claremont Institute Sheriffs Fellowship.

For parts 1 and 2 of this request, please provide all responsive records from July 1, 2022, through the date of the search.

3. Records reflecting the expenses and costs incurred by the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office related to Sheriff John McLanahan's participation in the 2022 Claremont Institute Sheriffs Fellowship in Huntington Beach, CA from November 12-18, 2022.

To the extent your office has aggregated records sufficient to show all relevant expenses and costs, such as spreadsheets, American Oversight would accept production of such records as sufficient. To the extent your office does not have an aggregated record of these costs, American Oversight requests records reflecting those costs, such as receipts, invoices, charge card or credit card statements, and reimbursement requests.

Relevant expenses may include, but are not limited to, hotel or other lodging costs; costs for air travel, rental car, or other transportation companies; costs incurred for government transportation; the cost of meals or refreshments; and per diem payments.

Relevant expenses include costs associated with the travel of Sheriff McLanahan, and of any staff members, family members, or other individuals travelling with him.

Please notify me of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fee.

### **Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records**

In connection with its request for records, I provide the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- 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. I 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.
- My 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 this request, this 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.
- 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.

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 me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my representative at the contact information listed below to discuss this request. We welcome an opportunity to discuss this request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, we 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 to the address listed below. 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 Heather Sawyer, c/o American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite

B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

**Conclusion**

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. I look forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Rachel Baron at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or (202) 897-2465.

Sincerely,

/s/ Heather Sawyer  
Heather Sawyer