



CITIZENS FOR  
RESPONSIBILITY &  
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON

April 6, 2021

**BY EMAIL:** [desantis.opengov@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:desantis.opengov@eog.myflorida.com)

Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Public Information Officer:

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) makes this request for records from the Executive Office of the Governor pursuant to the Public Records Act, Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes.

Specifically, CREW requests the following:

1. All records from December 1, 2020 to January 4, 2021 reflecting communications with any representative of Publix relating to distributing COVID-19 vaccines in Florida.
2. All records from December 1, 2020 to January 4, 2021 reflecting calendar entries, agendas, meeting minutes, or summaries of meetings or calls with any representative of Publix.
3. All records from December 1, 2020 to January 4, 2021 relating to distributing COVID-19 vaccines through any pharmacy chain operating in Florida, including without limitation Publix pharmacies.
4. All records from March 1, 2020 to April 2, 2021, reflecting any plans, directives, protocols, or efforts to distribute COVID-19 vaccines specifically to Florida communities with high populations of Black, Latino, historically underserved, or low-income residents.
5. All records from December 1, 2020 to April 2, 2021 relating to distributing COVID-19 vaccines to residents of West Palm Beach, Florida, including without limitation any requests to provide vaccines to West Palm Beach residents, and any responses to such requests.
6. All records from December 1, 2020 to April 2, 2021 relating to distributing COVID-19 vaccines to residents of Palm Beach, Florida, including without limitation any requests to provide vaccines to Palm Beach residents, and any responses to such requests.

For each of the above requests, we are seeking responsive records from any official within the Executive Office of the Governor, including without limitation Governor DeSantis, Lt. Governor Nuñez, Shane Strum or any other person who served as Governor DeSantis's Chief of Staff, Adrian Lukis or any other person who served as Governor DeSantis's Deputy Chief of Staff overseeing health and health care administration, and any member of Governor DeSantis's immediate staff.

Please search for responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. We seek records of any kind, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical material. Our request includes without limitation all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. Our request also includes any attachments to emails and other records, as well as emails to which the subjects of this request were cc'ed or bcc'ed.

By way of background, recent reporting raises questions about COVID-19 vaccine distribution in Florida, including whether the state government has prioritized distributing vaccines to high-income communities.<sup>1</sup> The reporting also raises questions about whether the state's selection of Publix as Florida's exclusive vaccine distributor in January 2021 was influenced by Publix's donations to Governor DeSantis's political action committee just a few weeks earlier.<sup>2</sup> The requested records will shed light on these and other matters of widespread public interest.

If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, Chapter 119 requires you to state the basis of the exemption you contend is applicable. Fla. Stat. § 119.07(1)(e). CREW further requests that you state in writing and with particularity the reasons for any conclusion that a record is exempt or confidential. Fla. Stat. § 119.07(1)(f). If some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, Chapter 119 requires you to redact those portions and produce the remainder of the requested records. Fla. Stat. § 119.07(1)(d).

CREW agrees to pay up to \$100 for copies of the requested records. If copying fees are expected to exceed this amount, or if you anticipate that "extensive use" of information technology resources or extensive clerical or supervisory assistance as defined in section 119.07(4)(d) will be needed to fulfill this request, please contact me at (202) 408-5565 or nsus@citizensforethics.org.

Where possible, please produce records in electronic format. Please send the requested records to me at either [nsus@citizensforethics.org](mailto:nsus@citizensforethics.org) or Nikhel Sus, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, 1101 K St., N.W., Suite 201, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this request or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records. We anticipate you will fulfill your

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<sup>1</sup> Sharyn Alfonsi, [How the wealthy cut the line during Florida's frenzied vaccine rollout](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/florida-covid-vaccine-ron-de-santis-60-minutes-2021-04-04/), *60 Minutes*, April 5, 2021, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/florida-covid-vaccine-ron-de-santis-60-minutes-2021-04-04/>.

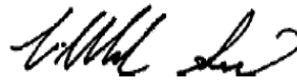
<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

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obligations under Chapter 119. If it is necessary to file an action to enforce the Public Records Act, the court may award reasonable costs of enforcement, including attorneys' fees. Fla. Stat. § 119.12.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikhel Sus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Nikhel Sus  
Senior Counsel