

July 12, 2018

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL: deqfoia@michigan.gov

FOIA Coordinator
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909-7973

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Coordinator,

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) makes this request for records pursuant to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), MCL § 15.231 et seq., to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (“DEQ”).

Specifically, CREW requests copies of any and all communications, from January 1, 2017 to the present, sent to or from Director Heidi Gartner; Chief Deputy Director Aaron Keatley; Senior Advisor Timothy O’Brien; and Director’s Assistant Mary Beth Thelen:

- (1) Discussing the city of Flint, Michigan’s water crisis, where the relevant terms “Flint”, “Flint crisis”, “water crisis”, and/or “lead poisoning” appear.
- (2) Discussing any other “contaminants” discovered in the city’s water, where the relevant terms “contaminant” / “contaminants” appear in conversations about Flint, Michigan;
- (3) Discussing any health findings on the city of Flint’s population, such as viruses or diseases, or similar “outbreaks”, where the relevant terms “outbreak” / “outbreaks”, “disease” / “diseases”, and/or “Legionnaires” appear in conversations about Flint, Michigan; and
- (4) Discussing the availability and distribution of funds to the city, to include conversations where itemized and enacted budgets appear (where the terms “budget” and “Flint” appear, or “money” and “Flint” appear, **together**).

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 (to include cc or bcc), text messages, social media 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. **However, please do NOT include copies of newspaper articles or other media clippings in your search as-part-of or response to this records request.**

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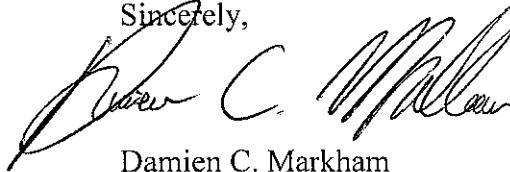
If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, CREW requests that such fees be waived because the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute to the public's understanding of how the state of Michigan came to its determination that the crisis is "over", and the process and findings for which making such a determination requires. CREW does not seek the requested documents for commercial purposes. If a waiver is not granted, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$50.

CREW notes that the Michigan Freedom of Information Act requires a response to this request within five business days. If the records I have requested will take longer to produce, please contact me about when CREW can expect copies of the requested records.

If you have any questions about this request or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please contact me at (202) 897-1844 or dmarkham@citizensforethics.org.

Where possible, please produce records in electronic format. Please send the requested records to me either at dmarkham@citizensforethics.org or at Damien C. Markham, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, 455 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Damien C. Markham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Damien C. Markham
Research Associate