

CREW | citizens for responsibility and ethics in washington

October 22, 2019

BY EMAIL: 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 pursuant to the Public Request Act, Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes.

First, CREW requests copies of all communications between Governor Ron DeSantis and Igor Fruman from January 8, 2019 to the present.

Second, CREW requests copies of all communications between Governor DeSantis and Lev Parnas from January 8, 2019 to the present.

Third, CREW requests copies of all documents that mention or relate to Igor Fruman and/or Lev Parnas from January 8, 2019 to the present.

By way of background, recent news reports have brought to light a relationship between Governor DeSantis and Igor Fruman and Lev Parnas, two Soviet-born businessmen and associates of Rudy Giuliani who were recently indicted on charges of interfering in U.S. elections. *See, e.g.,* Steve Contorno, [Ron DeSantis downplayed ties to Giuliani associates. Then we found them hugging.](https://www.tampabay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2019/10/18/ron-desantis-downplayed-ties-to-giuliani-associates-then-we-found-them-hugging/), *Tampa Bay Times*, Oct. 18, 2019, available at <https://www.tampabay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2019/10/18/ron-desantis-downplayed-ties-to-giuliani-associates-then-we-found-them-hugging/>. Reportedly the two men contributed \$50,000 to Governor DeSantis’ campaign in 2018. *Id.*

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.

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 email me at aweismann@citizensforethics.org. Please send the requested records to Anne L. Weismann, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, 1101 K Street, 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 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 in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anne L. Weismann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anne L. Weismann
Chief FOIA Counsel