

May 27, 2020

BY EMAIL: desantis.opengov@eog.myflorida.com

Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
ATTN: Office of Open Government
400 S. Monroe Street, Suite 209
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Public Information Officer:

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

Specifically, CREW requests:

1. All communications between March 1, 2020 and the present within the office of Governor Ron DeSantis mentioning any of the Trump Organization’s Florida properties, specifically:
 - Mar-a-Lago
 - Trump National Doral - Miami
 - Trump International Golf Club - West Palm Beach
 - Trump National Golf Club - Jupiter
 - Trump Hollywood - Hollywood Beach
 - Trump Plaza - Palm Beach
 - Trump International Beach Resort - Sunny Isles Beach
 - Trump Grande - Sunny Isles Beach
2. All communications between March 1, 2020 and the present between your office and representatives from the Trump Organization.

The requested records may shed light on whether representatives from President Trump’s private businesses contacted local officials about reopening during the coronavirus crisis, and may show officials’ reactions to these requests. They may also show whether businesses owned by President Trump sought financial assistance from the local government.

President Donald Trump has advocated for businesses to be allowed to reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ President Trump has a vested financial interest in businesses reopening, since he owns private businesses in the hospitality industry. According to the Wall Street Journal, the pandemic has cost “more than a million dollars in lost revenue daily” to Trump

¹ See <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1255130302655148033>.

Organization properties across the country.² Florida has been aggressive in reopening businesses, relative to other states, and businesses owned by President Trump in Florida have begun to reopen.³

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 rjacobs@citizensforethics.org.

Where possible, please produce records in electronic format. Please send the requested records to me at either rjacobs@citizensforethics.org or Rebecca Jacobs, 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.

Sincerely,

² Brian Spegele, Craig Karmin and Jenny Strasburg, Coronavirus Costing Trump Properties Over \$1 Million Daily in Lost Revenue, *The Wall Street Journal*, Apr. 2, 2020, available at <https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus-costing-trump-properties-over-1-million-daily-in-lost-revenue-11585823401>.

³ See for example, Kristen Holmes, Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort to partially reopen Saturday, *CNN*, May 14, 2020, available at <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/14/politics/trump-mar-a-lago-reopening/index.html>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Jacobs', written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Jacobs
Research Associate