



Office of the County Clerk

Cathy M. Garrett
Wayne County Clerk

December 18, 2020

Austin R. Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW
Suite B255
Washington, D.C. 20005

**Re: FOIA Request Dated 11/19/20 Seeking Copies of Text Messages
Between Monica Palmer or William Hartmann and Specifically
Named Persons¹**

Dear Mr. Evers:

Wayne County received the following request for records by email on November 19, 2020:

All text message chains/conversations, or message chains/conversations on messaging applications similar in form to text messages (such as Signal, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Twitter DMs, etc.), between (a) Chairperson Monica Palmer or Board Member William Hartmann, and [specifically named persons] . . . from November 3, 2020, through the date the search is conducted.

Your request was forwarded to Chairperson Monica Palmer and Member Hartmann.² They were asked to review the request and forward any responsive public records to our office. Your request must be denied,

¹ The legally required posting of the "Wayne County Freedom of Information Act Procedures & Guidelines," as well as the "Wayne County Summary of FOIA Procedures & Guidelines," are available for viewing under the "Public Records" section of the County's website at the following web address: <http://www.waynecounty.com/county/foia.htm>

² Your request was also forwarded to the Wayne County Department of Technology for a review of the request as it pertains to County records.

because, despite our request to Chairperson Palmer and Member Hartmann, we have not received any responsive records.

You have the right to do either of the following with regard to the denial of your request:

Submit a written appeal to the County Executive, which specifically states the word "appeal" and states the reason or reasons the denial should be reversed.

OR

Commence an action in the circuit court to compel disclosure. Should you prevail, you will be entitled to have reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements assessed against the County by the court. If you or the County prevails in part, the court may, in its discretion, award you all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements. If the court determines that the County has been arbitrary and capricious in its denial, you will also be entitled to punitive damages in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Sincerely,

Denial approved:



Natasha Baxter
FOIA Officer
Wayne County Clerk's Office



Department of Corporation Counsel

cc: FOIA Coordinator
Janet Anderson- Davis
Candice Smith- Parker

Subject: RE: FOIA Denial Ltr. Evers> Palmer & Hartmann
Date: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at 5:50:22 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: Natasha Baxter
To: AO Records
CC: Janet Anderson-Davis, Jennifer Redmond
Attachments: image002.jpg, image003.jpg, FOIA Requests - American Oversight.eml, redmond ltr.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER

Good Morning, [Ms. Monahan](#)

The requests from Austin Evers were forwarded to Chair Palmer and Member Hartmann on 11/23/20 with a request for a record search (see attached email). Chair Palmer's attorney responded and advised that she did not have any responsive records (see attached correspondence). None of the records provided by Member Hartmann were responsive to any of your three requests. Please refer to your response letters for your rights under the Michigan FOIA statute with regard to the denial of your requests.

Thank you,

Natasha Baxter
FOIA Officer
Office of the Wayne County Clerk, Cathy M. Garrett
C.A.Y.M.C., Two Woodward Avenue, Suite 211
Detroit, MI 48226



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From: AO Records [mailto:records@americanoversight.org]
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 5:10 PM
To: Natasha Baxter
Cc: Janet Anderson-Davis; Jennifer Redmond
Subject: Re: FOIA Denial Ltr. Evers> Palmer & Hartmann

Good afternoon,

With respect to each of these three requests, can you please clarify whether you did not receive responses from Ms. Palmer and Mr. Hartmann, or did they respond that they did not find any responsive records?

Thank you,

Christine

From: Natasha Baxter <nbaxter@waynecounty.com>
Date: Friday, December 18, 2020 at 3:49 PM
To: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Cc: Janet Anderson-Davis <jandersn@waynecounty.com>, Jennifer Redmond <jredmond@waynecounty.com>
Subject: FOIA Denial Ltr. Evers> Palmer & Hartmann

EXTERNAL SENDER

Good Afternoon,

Attached is the response to your FOIA Request.

Thank you,

Natasha Baxter
FOIA Officer
Office of the Wayne County Clerk, Cathy M. Garrett
C.A.Y.M.C., Two Woodward Avenue, Suite 211
Detroit, MI 48226



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Subject: FOIA Requests - American Oversight
Date: Monday, November 23, 2020 at 8:15:59 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: Jennifer Redmond
To: 'monica.palmer@live.com', William Hartmann (customrenovation@gmail.com)
CC: Natasha Baxter
Attachments: Austin Evers, American Oversight, records relating to Hartmann and Palme....pdf, Austin Evers, American Oversight, email and calendar appointments, Hartm....pdf, Austin Evers, American Oversight, Hartmann and Palmer text or direct mes....pdf

Good morning Chair Palmer and Member Hartmann:

We have received the attached three FOIA requests from Austin Evers of American Oversight asking for records regarding emails and calendar appointments, telephone calls, text messages. The specific requests are highlighted in blue.

As before, these requests pertain **only** to your work on the Wayne County Board of Canvassers. The requests are **not** asking for any personal emails, personal calendar appointments, personal telephone calls, or personal text messages. If some of the information is located on a cell phone, you can make a copy of the phone screen or take a screen shot. Please black out any personal information. If you don't have any records, please reply to this email and let me know that as well.

I would appreciate it if you would either provide me with any records that you have (or let me know that you don't have any records) no later than next Wednesday (November 25th).

Thank you,

Jennifer Redmond
Deputy Director/ FOIA Officer -Alternate
Wayne County Clerk - Elections Division ♦ Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 502 ♦ Detroit, MI 48226
Phone (313)224-5525
Fax (313)224-6424
Email: jredmond@waynecounty.com

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SCHWARTZ, PLLC
Professional Limited Liability Company
30300 Northwestern Highway, Suite 113
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-3217
Tel. (248) 932-0100 Fax (248) 741-6202
e-mail: phrog@schwartzlawyer.com

November 23, 2020

Ms. Jennifer Redmond
Deputy Director/FOIA Officer
Wayne County Clerk, Elections Division
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 502
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Ms. Redmond:

Please be advised that I am an attorney for Monica Palmer, who is Chairperson of the Wayne County Board of Canvassers, and I am responding on her behalf to your e-mail of today's date as to FOIA requests from Austin Evers of American Oversight.

Ms. Palmer has no records that have been requested that pertain to work on the Wayne County Board of Canvassers. Anything that she may have is not the subject of the FOIA requests. Thus, having reviewed your guidance in your e-mail of today's date, there is nothing for my client to produce.

If you have any questions, please direct them to me and I shall consult with my client as to any response and report back to you.



MAS/tih

Michael Alan Schwartz