

Subject: Public Records Request #247 - No Responsive Records
Date: Friday, January 21, 2022 at 9:43:32 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: PublicRecordsRequests
To: AO Records
CC: Betta, Katherine, Brown, Debbie, Hawkes, Jeremiah, Perez, Michelle

EXTERNAL SENDER

Good morning,

Pursuant to your public records request submitted on January 19, 2022, the Senate has found no responsive records for the following request:

Timeframe: July 1, 2021 – August 5, 2021

American Oversight requests that your office promptly produce the following:

1. **“All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, and calendar invitations) sent by Senator Wilton Simpson or anyone communicating on his behalf such as a Chief of Staff, deputy, assistant, or scheduler regarding his trip to the U.S.–Mexico border on or about July 17, 2021.**

In an effort to accommodate your office and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited item 1 of its request to emails sent by Senator Simpson. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both Senator Simpson’s response to an email about the trip and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

2. **Records reflecting any expenses and costs incurred or paid by your office related to the Senator Wilton Simpson’s trip to the U.S.–Mexico Border on or about July 17, 2021.**

To the extent your office has aggregated records sufficient to show all relevant expenses and costs, such as spreadsheets, American Oversight would accept production of such records as sufficient. To the extent your office does not have an aggregated record of these costs, American Oversight requests records reflecting those costs, such as receipts, invoices, charge card or credit card statements, and reimbursement requests.

Relevant expenses may include, but are not limited to, hotel or other lodging costs; costs for air travel, rental car, or other transportation companies; costs incurred for government transportation;

the cost of meals or refreshments; and per diem payments.

Relevant expenses include costs associated with Senator Wilton Simpson and of any staff members, family members, or other individuals traveling with him.

For both items of this request, please provide all responsive records from July 1, 2021, through August 5, 2021.”

I inquired with the President’s office staff and this is their response:

“The Senate has not incurred any expenses related to the President joining the Governor for the visit to the border. Staff had no role in coordinating the visit or the President’s travel, and no members of the Senate staff attended.

The President did incur some personal expenses on the trip, including purchasing lunch for dozens of brave law enforcement officers, which he was very happy to do as they are putting their lives on the line to guard the border of our country.”

The Senate provides this response pursuant to Article 1, Section 24 of the Florida Constitution, Title III, Section 11.0431 of the Florida Statutes and Senate Rule 1.48. Under Art. 1, s. 24(c) of the Florida Constitution, each house of the Legislature is exclusively authorized to adopt rules governing the enforcement of the maintenance, control and disposition of public records with respect to their own public records.

Sincerely,

Michelle

Michelle Perez

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