

Subject: Fwd: CORA Request - Hart Wood - 04/21/2022
Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 7:00:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: John Rhoads
To: AO Records
Attachments: CORA - 04_21_2022 - Hart Wood.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hello-

This is Mesa County's response to your CORA request. The request could not be translated to a search based on its terms. The email addresses of the individuals you indicated in your search could not be identified. A search to and from email addresses with the words "Bannon" and "Kassam" were searched and no results were returned.

The request was forwarded to Clerk Tina Peters and no records have been received. Thanks.

Sincerely,

John R. Rhoads
Assistant County Attorney
Mesa County, Colorado
(970) 244-1879
john.rhoads@mesacounty.us

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: *The contents of this email message and any attachments are intended solely for the addressee(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information and may be legally protected from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient of this message or their agent, or if this message has been addressed to you in error, please immediately alert the sender by reply email and then delete this message and any attachments. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, copying, or storage of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited.*

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <open.records@mesacounty.us>
Date: Thu, Apr 21, 2022 at 8:27 AM
Subject: CORA Request - Hart Wood - 04/21/2022
To: <open.records@mesacounty.us>

CORA Request - 04/21/2022 - Hart Wood

Date	04/21/2022
Name	Hart Wood
Organization	American Oversight
Mailing Address	Line 1 1030 15th Street NW
	Line 2 Suite B255
	City Washington
	State DC

Zip 20005

Phone (202) 873-1743

Email records@americanoversight.org

CO-MESA-22-0375 April 21, 2022 VIA ONLINE FORM Mesa County Department 5004 P.O. Box 20,000 Grand Junction, CO 81502-5001 Via Online Form Re: Open Records Act Request Dear Custodian of Records: Pursuant to the Colorado Open Records Act, C.R.S. § 24-72-201 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records. Requested Records American Oversight requests that Mesa County produce the following records within three working days: All electronic communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, text messages, or messages on messaging platforms, such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp) between (a) Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters and (b) any of the individuals or entities listed below. In the case of emails and texts, the search should include those sent or received from Tina Peters' personal accounts and devices if they were used to conduct official business, as well those sent from official email addresses or government-issued devices. Specified Parties: 1. Steve Bannon 2. Anyone communicating on behalf of Bannon's War Room, including but not limited to, Raheem Kassam Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and that this request specifically excludes, the initial mailing of news clips or other mass distribution emails. However, subsequent communications forwarding such emails are responsive to this request. In other words, for example, if Clerk Peters received a mass-distribution news clip email from one of the specified entities, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if Clerk Peters forwarded that email to another individual with his own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced. Please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2021, through the date the search is conducted. Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fee. Fee Waiver Request In accordance with C.R.S. § 24-72-205(4), American Oversight requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. Disclosure of the requested records will further a "public purpose"¹ because it will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the general public in a significant way. Moreover, the request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. The public has a significant interest in communications County Clerk Tina Peters may have had with certain external entities. Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government, including whether and to what extent County Clerk Peters was coordinating with these external entities. American Oversight is committed to transparency and makes the responses agencies provide to open records requests publicly available, and the public's understanding of the government's activities would be enhanced through American Oversight's analysis and publication of these records. This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, American Oversight does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in American Oversight's financial interest. American Oversight's mission is to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.² American Oversight has also demonstrated its commitment to the public

Documents
Requested

disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website.³ Examples reflecting this commitment to the public disclosure of documents and the creation of editorial content include the posting of records related to the organization's investigations into misconduct and corruption in state governments;⁴ posting records and analysis of federal and state governments' responses to the Coronavirus pandemic;⁵ posting records received as part of American Oversight's "Audit the Wall" project to gather and analyze information related to the Trump administration's proposed construction of a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, and analyses of what those records reveal;⁶ and the posting of records related to an ethics waiver received by a senior Department of Justice attorney and an analysis of what those records demonstrated regarding the Department's process for issuing such waivers.⁷ Accordingly, American Oversight qualifies for a fee waiver. Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records: ¶ Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. For instance, if the request seeks "communications," please search all locations likely to contain communications, including relevant hard-copy files, correspondence files, appropriate locations on hard drives and shared drives, emails, text messages or other direct messaging systems (such as iMessage, WhatsApp, Signal, or Twitter direct messages), voicemail messages, instant messaging systems such as Lync or ICQ, and shared messages systems such as Slack. ¶ Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email. ¶ Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages. ¶ In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release. ¶ Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records. Conclusion If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future. Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis. We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks

forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Hart Wood at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 873-1743. Also, if American Oversight's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making such a determination. Sincerely, /s/ Hart Wood Hart Wood on behalf of American Oversight 1 C.R.S. § 24-72-205(4). 2 American Oversight currently has approximately 15,700 page likes on Facebook and 118,100 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Apr. 5, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Apr. 5, 2021). 3 See generally News, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/blog>. 4 State Investigations, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/states>. 5 See e.g. The Trump Administration's Response to Coronavirus, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-response-to-coronavirus>; Tulsa Health Officials Initially Estimated Trump Rally Would Directly Lead to 2 to 9 Deaths, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/tulsa-health-officials-initially-estimated-trump-rally-would-directly-lead-to-2-to-9-deaths>; Wisconsin Documents Offer Window into Early Uncertainty over COVID-19, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/wisconsin-documents-offer-window-into-early-uncertainty-over-covid-19>; In the Documents: Florida Health Department Efforts to Suppress Release of Coronavirus Records, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/in-the-documents-florida-health-department-efforts-to-suppress-release-of-coronavirus-records>. 6 See generally Audit the Wall, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/audit-the-wall>; see, e.g., Border Wall Investigation Report: No Plans, No Funding, No Timeline, No Wall, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/border-wall-investigation-report-no-plans-no-funding-no-timeline-no-wall>. 7 DOJ Records Relating to Solicitor General Noel Francisco's Recusal, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/document/doj-civil-division-response-noel-francisco-compliance>; Francisco & the Travel Ban: What We Learned from the DOJ Documents, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/francisco-the-travel-ban-what-we-learned-from-the-doj-documents>.

Needs Copies?	No	
Delivery	Email	Yes
	U.S. Mail	No
	Will Pick Up	No