

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS 101 SOUTH BROAD STREET PO Box 819 TRENTON, NJ 08625-0819

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver Commissioner

#### FINAL DECISION

#### March 26, 2019 Government Records Council Meeting

Thomas Caggiano
Complainant
v.
Township of Wantage (Sussex)
Custodian of Record

Complaint No. 2016-202

At the March 26, 2019 public meeting, the Government Records Council ("Council") considered the March 19, 2019 Findings and Recommendations of the Executive Director and all related documentation submitted by the parties. The Council, by a majority vote, adopted the entirety of said findings and recommendations. The Council, therefore, finds that:

- The Township erred by denying the Complainant's OPRA request on the bases that he was an out-of-state requestor. Specifically, the Township could have reasonably relied on this denial at a time when the out-of-state requestor question was uncertain. However, the court's published decision in <u>Scheeler v. Atl. Cty. Mun. Joint Ins. Fund</u>, 454 N.J. Super. 621 (App. Div. 2018), holding that out-of-state requestors have standing to use OPRA, has laid to rest the controversy.
- 2. Although the Complainant's request invoked OPRA, it is nonetheless invalid because it does not contain "sufficient information" that the Renna v. Cnty. of Union, 407 N.J. Super. 230 (App. Div. 2009) court envisioned in a non-form request. Further, the Custodian did not unlawfully deny access to said request because it was invalid. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6; Caggiano v. State of N.J. Office of the Governor, GRC Complaint No. 2014-166 (January 2015).

This is the final administrative determination in this matter. Any further review should be pursued in the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey within forty-five (45) days. Information about the appeals process can be obtained from the Appellate Division Clerk's Office, Hughes Justice Complex, 25 W. Market St., PO Box 006, Trenton, NJ 08625-0006. Proper service of submissions pursuant to any appeal is to be made to the Council in care of the Executive Director at the State of New Jersey Government Records Council, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 819, Trenton, NJ 08625-0819.



Final Decision Rendered by the Government Records Council On The 26<sup>th</sup> Day of March, 2019

Robin Berg Tabakin, Esq., Chair Government Records Council

I attest the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the Government Records Council.

Steven Ritardi, Esq., Secretary Government Records Council

**Decision Distribution Date: March 29, 2019** 

#### STATE OF NEW JERSEY GOVERNMENT RECORDS COUNCIL

#### Findings and Recommendations of the Council Staff March 26, 2019 Council Meeting

Thomas Caggiano<sup>1</sup> Complainant GRC Complaint No. 2016-202

v.

Township of Wantage (Sussex)<sup>2</sup> Custodial Agency

**Records Relevant to Complaint:** See Exhibit A.

**Custodian of Record:** James R. Doherty<sup>3</sup>

Request Received by Custodian: April 20, 2015

Response Made by Custodian: N/A GRC Complaint Received: July 18, 2016

#### Background<sup>4</sup>

#### Request and Response:

On April 12, 2015, the Complainant submitted an Open Public Records Act ("OPRA") request to the Custodian seeking the above-mentioned records.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Denial of Access Complaint:**

On July 18, 2016, the Complainant filed a Denial of Access Complaint with the Government Records Council ("GRC"). The Complainant provided no salient arguments other than that he was denied access to multiple records. The remainder of his filing included numerous allegations against multiple individuals. The Complainant also did not identify a date on which he submitted the subject OPRA request. The Complainant only included an enlarged screenshot of an OPRA request form dated April 12, 2015 that did not include any request items. The Complainant asserted that he received a response July 11, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> No legal representation listed on record.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Represented by Steven R. Tombalakian, Esq., of Weiner Law Group, LLP (Parsippany, NJ).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Mr. Doherty passed away on April 3, 2016

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The parties may have submitted additional correspondence or made additional statements/assertions in the submissions identified herein. However, the Council includes in the Findings and Recommendations of the Council Staff the submissions necessary and relevant for the adjudication of this complaint.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> In his Denial of Access Complaint, the Complainant did not identify the date of his OPRA request but attached a screenshot of an OPRA request dated August April 12, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> This response, which was attached to the complaint, was a letter from Custodian's Counsel to the Morris County Superior Court regarding <u>Twp. of Wantage v. Caggiano</u>, Docket No. SSX-C-21-15.

#### **Statement of Information:**

On August 16, 2016,<sup>7</sup> Custodian's Counsel sent a letter to the GRC stating that the Honorable Stephan J. Hansbury, P.J.S.C., recently released an order in <u>Twp. of Wantage v. Caggiano</u>, Docket No. SSX-C-21-15. Counsel stated that therein, Judge Hansbury held that the Complainant did not have standing under OPRA because he was not a citizen of the State. Counsel thus requested that the GRC dismiss this complaint because the Complainant had no standing to submit OPRA requests.

On August 29, 2016, Custodian's Counsel sent a second letter to the GRC reiterating the standing issue from his prior letter. Counsel further stated that the GRC nonetheless requested an that the Township of Wantage ("Township") submit a Statement of Information ("SOI"). Counsel stated that upon further review, it appeared that none of the OPRA requests referenced by the Complainant were filed with the Township. Counsel noted that the Complainant failed to attach the subject request, did not identify a request date and did not offer "proof of service" to the Township. Counsel thus asserted that the Township could not submit an SOI with the requisite information but asserted that the Township timely responded to all received OPRA requests prior to the Court ruling the Complainant ineligible.

On June 6, 2018, the Custodian Counsel filed an uncertified SOI on behalf of the decedent Custodian. Counsel noted that he could not certify to the SOI because the Township was having trouble locating hard copies of the decedent Custodian's response and accompanying compact disc sent to the Complainant.

Therein, Counsel stated that the Township received the Complainant's OPRA request, comprising of twelve (12) items, on August 12, 2015. Counsel certified that the decedent Custodian responded in writing on August 18, 2015 addressing each item by granting or denying access. Counsel argued that he lawfully denied the Complainant's OPRA request because: 1) the Complainant was not a citizen of New Jersey; and 2) the Complainant sought access to e-mails he sent to the Township.

#### Additional Submissions:

On January 7, 2019, the GRC sought additional information from Custodian's Counsel. Specifically, the GRC stated that the evidence of record was still unclear as to whether the Township received an OPRA request that mirrored the items listed in the Denial of Access Complaint. The GRC noted that the matter was complicated by the Complainant's failure to attach the subject request, other than the enlarged screenshot of an April 12, 2015 OPRA request, or identify a submission/correct response date. The GRC further noted that in the uncertified SOI, Counsel attached and discussed the Township's handling of an August 12, 2015 OPRA request, wherein only one item matched the Denial of Access Complaint. The GRC thus requested that the current Custodian provide a certified response to the following:

1. Did the Township receive an OPRA request from the Complainant dated April 12, 2015? If so, please attach a copy for review.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Custodian's Counsel sent his letter in response to the GRC's request for a Statement of Information.

Thomas Caggiano v. Township of Wantage (Sussex), 2016-202 - Findings and Recommendations of the Council Staff

2. If the Township received said request, did the original Custodian provide a response to it and on what date? If a response was provided, please attach a copy for review.

The GRC requested that the current Custodian provide her certified response by close of business on January 10, 2019.

On January 9, 2019, the current Custodian responded to the GRC's request for additional information. Therein, the current Custodian certified that she located an eleven (11) page document entitled "Prolog" that the Township purportedly received on April 20, 2015. The current Custodian further certified that attached was a three (3) page e-mail from the decedent Custodian to the Complainant date April 20, 2015. The current Custodian certified that this response appeared to correlate to the April 12, 2015 letter.

#### **Analysis**

#### **Out-of-State Requestors**

OPRA provides that "government records shall be readily accessible for inspection, copying, or examination by the citizens of this State . . ." N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1. The question of whether non-residents of New Jersey have standing to request records under OPRA was unsettled for several years until recently. The Appellate Division, in the published decision Scheeler v. Atl. Cty. Mun. Joint Ins. Fund, 454 N.J. Super. 621 (App. Div. 2018), held that "the right to request records under OPRA is not limited to 'citizens' of New Jersey." Id. at 625.

Scheeler determined that unlike the former Right To Know Law ("RTKL"), the absence of the term 'citizen' or a definitive definition in OPRA indicated the Legislature's "intent to expand the public's right of access to public records, beyond that permitted by the RTKL." <u>Id.</u> at 629. The court supported its conclusion by stating that "any doubts about the meaning of the phrase should be resolved in favor of public access, and hence in favor of construing the phrase as a generality rather than an intentional limit on standing. <u>See Serrano v. South Brunswick Twp.</u>, 358 <u>N.J. Super.</u> 352, 366 (App. Div. 2003) (ambiguities in OPRA are to be resolved in favor of public access)." Id. at 630-631.

As previously noted, the out-of-state requestor issue had been in controversy for several years. In 2013, the United States Supreme Court in McBurney v. Young, 133 S.Ct. 1709, 1720 (2013) considered the issue in a suit brought to challenge Virginia's Freedom of Information Act ("the Act"). The Act permitted only state residents to access government records. The Supreme Court determined that the Act did not violate the Privileges and Immunities Clause of the United States Constitution. As part of the rationale for the decision, the Court noted that several other States, including New Jersey, enacted freedom of information laws that were available only to their citizens.

Subsequent to McBurney, New Jersey courts, in 2016, began addressing the issue whether OPRA permits non-citizens to submit OPRA requests. In <u>Lawyers Committee</u>, Docket No. ATL-L-832-15 (Law Div. Feb. 19, 2016), <u>Scheeler v. City of Cape May</u>, *et al*, Docket No. CPM-L-444-15 (Law Div. Feb. 19, 2016), and <u>Twp. of Wantage</u>, Docket No. SSX-C-21-15, the respective

vicinages held that out-of-state requestors did not have standing to submit OPRA requests. However, in <u>Scheeler v. Atlantic Cnty. Muni. Joint Ins. Fund, et al.</u>, Docket No. BUR-L-990-15 (Law Div. Oct. 2, 2015) and <u>Scheeler v. Ocean Cnty. Prosecutor's Office, et al.</u>, Docket No. OCN-L-3295-15 (Law Div. Apr. 14, 2016), the respective vicinages held that out-of-state requestors did have standing to submit OPRA requests.

Following these decisions, plaintiffs in Docket No. BUR-L-990-15, ATL-L-832-15, and CPM-L-444-15 appealed. The appeals were consolidated under Scheeler v. Atl. Cty. Mun. Joint Ins. Fund. During the pendency of the appeal, the GRC issued a final decision in Scheeler, Jr. v. Burlington Twp. (Burlington), GRC Complaint No. 2015-93 (Final Decision dated September 27, 2016) wherein the Council determined that out-of-state requestors did not have standing to submit OPRA requests based on a plain reading of N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.

Here, the Complainant is an out-of-state requestor currently residing in Nevada. Upon receipt of the instant complaint, Custodian's Counsel sent two (2) letters to the GRC requesting that this complaint be dismissed. Counsel stated that an August 1, 2016 order in <a href="Twp. of Wantage">Twp. of Wantage</a> permanently enjoined the Complainant from filing OPRA requests due to his status as an out-of-state resident. The order also required the Complainant, should he become a New Jersey citizen subsequent to the order, to seek leave from the court prior to filing OPRA requests to the Township.

In the midst of such an uncertain question regarding the standing of out-of-state requestors, the Township's response seemed reasonable. However, the Appellate Division's decision in Scheeler has laid the controversy to rest by definitively holding that OPRA permits out-of-state requestors to utilize the statute. Further, the court's decision in Scheeler, as a published Appellate Division decision, takes precedence over the trial court's order in Twp. of Wantage. For these reasons, the GRC must conclude that the Township erred by denying the Complainant's OPRA request because he was an out-of-state requestor.

Accordingly, the Township erred by denying the Complainant's OPRA request on the bases that he was an out-of-state requestor. Specifically, the Township could have reasonably relied on this denial at a time when the out-of-state requestor question was uncertain. However, the court's published decision in <u>Scheeler</u>, holding that out-of-state requestors have standing to use OPRA, has laid to rest the controversy.

#### **Unlawful Denial of Access**

OPRA provides that government records made, maintained, kept on file, or received by a public agency in the course of its official business are subject to public access unless otherwise exempt. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1. A custodian must release all records responsive to an OPRA request "with certain exceptions." N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1. Additionally, OPRA places the burden on a custodian to prove that a denial of access to records is lawful pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6.

Here, a number of factors led to confusion over which OPRA request was truly the basis of the instant complaint. First, the Complainant failed to identify the date of the request in the Denial of Access Complaint. He further failed to attach a copy of the request beyond an enlarged screenshot of an OPRA request form. That form did not include any request items. Thus, the GRC

was forced to rely on the Complainant's handwritten description of the request, which was interspersed with dialogue regarding law suits filed by the Township. The handwritten descriptions also appeared to include extraneous request items to which the Complainant alleged he was denied access.

Additionally, it took three (3) attempts for the Township to locate the OPRA request potentially at issue here. This was due in part to the fact that the decedent Custodian passed prior to filing of this complaint, which was initiated over a year after submission of the purported subject request. Further, the alleged response provided as part of the current Custodian's January 9, 2019 certification suggests that the Complainant may have filed multiple requests via different methods of transmission in a short time frame.

Ultimately, the GRC believes the April 12, 2015 letter, comprising eleven (11) pages, is the request at the center of this complaint. Further, based on the composition of the request, the threshold issue in this complaint is whether same constituted a valid OPRA request for purposes of OPRA. To this end, OPRA provides that:

The custodian of a public agency shall adopt a form for the use of any person who requests access to a government record held or controlled by the public agency. The form shall provide space for the name, address, and phone number of the requestor and a brief description of the government record sought. The form shall include space for the custodian to indicate which record will be made available, when the record will be available, and the fees to be charged. The form shall also include the following:

- 1) specific directions and procedures for requesting a record;
- 2) a statement as to whether prepayment of fees or a deposit is required;
- 3) the time period within which the public agency is required by [OPRA], to make the record available;
- 4) a statement of the requestor's right to challenge a decision by the public agency to deny access and the procedure for filing an appeal;
- 5) space for the custodian to list reasons if a request is denied in whole or in part;
- 6) space for the requestor to sign and date the form;
- 7) space for the custodian to sign and date the form if the request is fulfilled or denied.

#### [N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(f).]

Furthermore, OPRA states that "a request for access to a government record shall be in writing and hand-delivered, mailed, transmitted electronically, or otherwise conveyed to the appropriate custodian." N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g).

In <u>Renna v. Cnty. of Union</u>, 407 <u>N.J. Super.</u> 230 (App. Div. 2009), the Appellate Division held that although requestors shall continue to use public agencies' OPRA request forms when making requests, no custodian shall withhold such records if the written request for such records,

not presented on the official form, contains the requisite information prescribed in the section of OPRA requiring custodians to adopt a form. <u>Id.</u> Specifically, the Court reasoned that:

We also recognize the public policy concern that the Legislature did not want to subject agencies to an undue burden, or to spurious lawsuits, or to guessing games as to the nature of a request, which might prompt an inappropriate response to the request[o]r . . . The custodian must have before it sufficient information to make the threshold determination as to the nature of the request and whether it falls within the scope of OPRA. Accordingly, we conclude that the form should be used, but no request for information should be rejected if such form is not used.

[Id. at 244-245.]

In effect, this permits requestors to write their own correspondence seeking records from a custodian, as long as the request properly invokes OPRA. See Wolosky v. Twp. of East Hanover (Morris), GRC Complaint No. 2010-205 (Interim Order dated January 31, 2012). However, there are instances where the Council has found that a non-form request invoking OPRA was nonetheless invalid.

In <u>Caggiano v. State of N.J. Office of the Governor</u>, GRC Complaint No. 2014-166 (January 2015), the complainant sent an e-mail invoking OPRA to thirty-three (33) individuals. He subsequently filed a complaint against the custodian arguing that she failed to respond to said request. Upon review of the e-mail, the Council noted it did not include a salutation and did not hint at who the request was intended for until item No. 3. The Council ultimately held that the request was invalid because it was "not satisfied that the request falls within the type of non-formal request envisioned in <u>Renna</u>." <u>Id.</u> at 4.

Here, the Complainant's request purportedly at issue in this complaint is an eleven (11) page missive containing lengthy diatribes and allegations in numbered paragraphs and screenshots. The first page is entitled "Prolog" and contains multiple references to a "DOJ Case File DA" and other documents published on the Complainant's website. It is not until the middle of page 2 that the Complainant stated that "[t]his is an [OPRA] Request . . . to the Township of Wantage."

However, the Complainant's request departs from Renna, and Wolosky, thereafter. The Complainant does not proffer his actual request items until the middle of page 10. These seven (7) items are encapsulated within paragraphs 19 through 23. The final page of the submission is a regular-sized screenshot of the Township's form dated April 12, 2015. Within the "Record Request Information" box is a hand-written statement that "[t]his is An OPRA [and] Common Law Right of Access, Justification of Standing for Common Law Are Above As Well As Govt (*sic*) Records [illegible]."

The request at issue here is similar to the request at issue in <u>Caggiano v. Twp. of Green (Sussex)</u>, GRC Complaint No. 2014-418 (Final Decision dated September 29, 2015). There, the Township of Green received a "Final Order of Injunctive Relief" barring the complainant from submitting OPRA requests other than on the proper form. As part of its decision on whether to bar

the complainant from submitting OPRA requests on the grounds of harassment, the court reasoned that:

Defendant's actions are not and cannot be interpreted as a type of rights protected by OPRA. As noted earlier, defendant's submissions are rambling, disjointed, at times disturbing, and frequently contain OPRA requests ensconced by political rants directed at local government officials. (Citation omitted). Plaintiffs are obligated to examine these submissions and then determine whether they require an official response. Defendant refuses to utilized plaintiffs' official OPRA request forms, and instead chooses to e[-]mail, fax, and mail his correspondence to well over thirty (30) municipal officials. (Citation omitted). Defendant's requests are duplicative and often seek hard copies of his own electronic submissions.

[Twp. of Green, et al. v. Caggiano, Docket No. SSX-C-1-13 (April 4, 2013) Slip Op. at 11-12.]

Within two (2) months after the court's decision, the Complainant filed an OPRA request, inclusive of the form, attaching "fourteen (14) additional pages containing twenty-four (24) request items, lengthy diatribes, and several allegations of corruption against various parties." <u>Caggiano</u>, GRC 2014-418 at 3-4. The custodian objected based on the court order and the complaint ensued. The Council, relying on <u>Twp. of Green</u>, held that the request did not conform to the court order that the custodian did not unlawfully deny access on that basis.

The GRC finds the facts in <u>Caggiano</u>, GRC 2014-418 to be instructive here. The GRC does note that this complaint differs in that the final injunctive order issued against the Complainant did not limit him to using the Township's form. Notwithstanding, the Complainant's history of submitting lengthy letters containing OPRA requests concealed within is well documented. These types of OPRA requests inevitably subjected the Township to "to an undue burden, or to spurious lawsuits, or to guessing games as to the nature of a request, which might prompt an inappropriate response to the request[o]r." <u>Renna</u>, 407 <u>N.J. Super.</u> at 244-245. Further, the length at which the GRC and Township had to go to identify the correct request speaks to the invalid nature of it. Based on all of the forgoing, the GRC concludes that the subject request is invalid.

Accordingly, although the Complainant's request invoked OPRA, it is nonetheless invalid because it does not contain "sufficient information" that the <u>Renna</u> court envisioned in a non-form request. Further, the Custodian did not unlawfully deny access to said request because it was invalid. <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 47:1A-6; <u>Caggiano</u>, GRC 2014-166.

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The Council Staff respectfully recommends the Council find that:

1. The Township erred by denying the Complainant's OPRA request on the bases that he was an out-of-state requestor. Specifically, the Township could have reasonably relied on this denial at a time when the out-of-state requestor question was uncertain. However, the court's published decision in <a href="Scheeler v. Atl. Cty. Mun. Joint Ins. Fund">Scheeler v. Atl. Cty. Mun. Joint Ins. Fund</a>,

- 454 <u>N.J. Super.</u> 621 (App. Div. 2018), holding that out-of-state requestors have standing to use OPRA, has laid to rest the controversy.
- 2. Although the Complainant's request invoked OPRA, it is nonetheless invalid because it does not contain "sufficient information" that the Renna v. Cnty. of Union, 407 N.J. Super. 230 (App. Div. 2009) court envisioned in a non-form request. Further, the Custodian did not unlawfully deny access to said request because it was invalid. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6; Caggiano v. State of N.J. Office of the Governor, GRC Complaint No. 2014-166 (January 2015).

Prepared By: Frank F. Caruso

**Acting Executive Director** 

March 19, 2019

#### **Prolog**

Tyranny exposed in Government the following Open Public records published as an OPINION by author and publisher of the registered State of Nevada publishing enterprise Inside on the Outside has exposed corruption in Government at all levels in the following published FOIA responses and in filings wit the U.. Court of Appeals 9th circuit and other filings to the corrupt Comptroller, state police official corruption unit, numerous local police per instructions from FBI in Washington D.C and Newark, NJ and a Sussex County NJ Sussex Count prosecutor detective including Augusta State police an numerous office's of Professional Responsibility in Washington D.C. Morristown and Sussex County Prosecutor's Offices and CIGIE, OPR, O

#### Thomas Caggiano's DOJ Case File DA

Filed with one of USA's corrupt U.S. District Courts
Ref: Complaint of Judicial Misconduct No. 14-90015
U.S. Court of Appeals 9th Ciruit filing: http://thomascaggiano.com/USCOURTS.pdf.pdf
a Writ of Mandamus Petition for a Federal Grand Jury to
determine if Probable Cause exists 18 U.S.C. § 2, §4, et.al. as CIGIE,
U. S. Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility, PIN, PCU,U.S.
Attorney District of NJ, NJ Attorney General, FBI's Public Access Line are corrupt as well as are U.S. Chief Justice Thomas for 9th Circuit, its U.S. Court of Appeals and
NJ Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, OAC Glenn Grant, J.A.D., ACJC, OAE, DRB and more

## thomascaggiano.com

TAKE JUDICIAL NOTICE of law, including Codes of Ethics, Title 18 U.S.C. §2 and §4, N.J.S.A. 2C:2-1, 2C:2-6, 2C:5-1, 2C:5-2, 2C:21-3, legislative intent and adjudicative facts. The alleged facts are opinions based upon my own knowledge and best of my ability. Thomas Caggiano's background is published on http://thomascaggiano.com/background.pdf under the Freedom of the Press to expose government corruption at all levels coast to coast that is pandemic and the opinion of the author Thomas Caggiano as "news media" per Federal Rules of Evidence Rule 902(6) and State of New Jersey Court rule 701 witness' testimony in the form of opinions or inferences may be admitted if it (a) is rationally based on the perception of the witness and (b) will assist in understanding the witness' testimony or in determining a fact in issue. State of New Jersey Court Rule 1:4-3. Adoption by Reference; Exhibits and Rule 1:4-4(b) Affidavits: Certification in Lieu of Oath. In lieu of the affidavit, oath, or verification required by these rules, the affiant may submit the following certification, which shall be dated and immediately precede the affiant's signature: "I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment." The document below is a verified certified affidavit per State of New Jersey court rules and published by the registered publishing enterprise Inside on the Outside, recognized as "News Media:" by the federal Council on Government Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) as published on http://thomascaggiano.com/CIGIE.pdf and direct urls or via in some cases by http://thomascaggiano.com/filename or http://FreedomNewsDigest.com providing allegations of criminal or unethical acts http://thomascaggiano.com/ethicslawyers.pdf. The DOJ Case file number DA30037340 assigned by the corrupt DOJ Public Integrity Section to the corrupt DOJ Public Corruption Unit is shown on http://thomascaggiano.com/PCU.pdf with dozens of relevant and referenced adopted exhibits. The PCU is protected by the DOJ Office of Public Responsibility, write the OPR to request a coy under FOIA of its letters to Thomas Caggiano dated Mar 23, 2015 and Jan 22, 2015, to

OPR, 950 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W. Suite 3268, Washington D.C. 20530, 202-514-3365 and request copy of FOIA response to Thomas Caggiano Re: FOIA No. F15-00014 or download the 103 page response and letters now published on http://thomascaggiano.com/DOJOPR.pdf. A 350 plus page filing was made to the U.S. Court of Appeals against U.S. District Court judges violating Codes of Ethics, 18 U.S.C. §2 and §4 published on with exhibits references on: http://thomascaggiano.com/141211judicialcouncilmisconductpetition.pdf

From:

Thomas Caggiano - Author and Publisher Inside on the Outside Registered State of Nevada web urls: http://FreedomNewsDigest.com and linked http:ThomasCaggiano.com/background.pdf home: 702-586-6768 cell: 973-347-4354 global cell: 862-258-59

7086 Arcadia Glen Court North Las Vegas, Nevada 89084

April 12, 2015

To:

thomascaggiano.com

Township of Wantage Mayor Bill Gaechter, Borough Attorney and Town Administrator 888 Route 23 Wantage, NJ 07461

Subject: OPRA and Common law Right of Access request to the Township of Wantage, Sussex County and for other purposes

- 1. This an Open Public Record Act (OPRA) Request and a Common Law Right of Access Request to the Township of Wantage
- 2. **TAKE NOTICE** of the Constitution of the United States of America and the letter from the State of Nevada Attorney General published over a year ago on:

### http://thomascaggiano.com/NVattorneygeneral.pdf and the Local Public Contracts Law Handbook

http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dlgs/programs/lpcl\_docs/Full%204-14%20LPCL-NJAC%20Reference%20Handbook.pdf

3. The statement made by the Mayor Bassani that is recorded in the official minutes and published which is accessible to any person by googling with appropriate search criteria is in my opinion willfully false i to further defame and discredit published statements made in Certified Affidavits to the Joint Municipal Court of the Township of Wantage, Township of Stillwater and Borough of Sussex and the Office of Municipal prosecutor for Wantage being Dolan and Dolan PA William Haggerty, Esq. who has twice written the court in State v. Thomas Caggiano he recused himself yet the Township of Wantage with oversight responsibility of its Office of Municipal prosecutor to assure due process civil rights are provided has refused to appoint a substitute municipal prosecutor in over a year and the magistrate judges have refused to address filed motions over a yet including motions by default to time expiration ad violation of my 4th Amendment rights. and others, which in fact have been provided to enforcement agencies



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and if willfully false would be a criminal act. Per the statement the official minutes Mr. Garofalo explained the details of the situation.

Mayor Bassani mentioned a case involving an individual named Thomas Caggiano, in which that individual had become a chronic complainant, causing a municipality extreme taxpayer expense in repeatedly having to defend themselves against his claims, until the municipality took legal action. Mr. Garofalo explained the details of that situation. Mayor Bassani inquired if there was a point at which a municipality may take such legal action to prevent unnecessary taxpayer expense, stating his belief that Mr. Gettler would continue to file complaints against the Township and continue to cost the taxpayers' money unless he were compelled legally to stop. Mr. Garofalo advised that the answer to this question is, "when the municipality believes it has had enough." Mr. Garofalo counseled that the bar is set very high for a municipality to prevail in such a legal action. Mayor Bassani expressed the belief that Mr. Gettler's lawsuits represented a flagrant waste of taxpayer dollars.

# MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 888 STATE HIGHWAY ROUTE 23, WANTAGE, N.J., ON AUGUST 15, 2013

Mayor Ronald Bassani called the meeting to order, and requested the Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Ronald Bassani, Committeeman William Gaechter, and Committeeman William DeBoer. The following members were absent: None

Mayor Bassani stated, "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Public Laws 1975, Chapter 231. It has been properly noticed and posted to the public, and certified by the Clerk."

#### PAGE 3 OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 2013

#### Administrator's Report

Mr. Doherty offered clarification for the matters discussed in closed session, stating that the party discussed in closed executive session regarding excessive and frivolous OPRA requests was Thomas Caggiano. The members of the governing body confirmed by consensus for Mr. Garofalo to proceed with legal action to secure an injunction against Mr. Caggiano, to prevent him from filing OPRA requests with Wantage Township. Mr. Doherty stated the other item discussed in exec utive session involved a motion filed by attorney Leurs for payment of legal bills related to OPRA cases that were recently adjudicated, necessitating discussion under attorney client privilege regarding the Township's position on this motion.

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- 4. I have never been convicted of any indictable offense.
- 5. I am not on probation. All fines and probation issued by Judge Craig U. Dana, J.M.C. fro the Joint municipal court of the Townships of Green, Hampton, Fredon and Borough of Sussex were vacated upon my municipal appeal before Judge N. Peter Conforti, J.S.C.. After my harassment conviction at the hands of the corrupt Government Record Council's executive director Catherine Starghill, Esq. before Judge Louis Sancinito, J.M.C. Docket S2007-075464 State v. Thomas Caggiano and after I met the Mercer County Prosecutor's' Staff reporting violations of federal ad State criminal laws, I was found NO guilty by Superior Court Judge Mitchell E. Ostrer, J.S.C, J.S.C. Docket 18723 and the Mercer County prosecutor mailed 6 CDS of evidence to the corrupt FBI Trenton field office toed below:
- 6. On 13 criminal charges field against me based upon filings by the corrupt Borough of Stanhope officials and employees for violating a court order issued on SSX-C-847-09 Borough of Stanhope v. Thomas Caggiano and Government Record Council under IND 08-09-316-I State v. Thomas Caggiano al criminal charges were dismissed with prejudice against the State of New jersey,.
- 7. Based upon complaints field by Thomas Caggiano for he minor Division Block 10902 Lots 10 and 12, 2 and 6 oak Drive, Stanhope, NJ 07874 the Deportment of /community Affairs Codes and Standards Department made determination that violations of the Uniform Construction /code occurred. Based upon thomas Caggiano appeal o the State Soil Conservation Committee of a certified by the corrupt State's Department of Agriculture's sussex County Soil Conservation district;'s Clifford Lundin, Esq. th form Mayor of Hopatcong James Sadley only after 8 months and hundreds emails agreed he determined was invalid and the State knew nothing f he minor subdivision noted in the deeds provided John Eskilson as the direction of the corrupt Dennis Mc McConnell, Esq as the corrupt deputy clerk for Sussex county was the corrupt former mayor of Stanhope Brain Mc Neilly now th Town administrator of Stanhope as the former Township administrator Teri Massood ran away from Stanhope without severance pay when the GRC made a finding under GRC 2006-02 that 4 OPRA laws were violated. She per George Graham when I asked him state she did NOT get severance pay which she would have gotten 3 months per Chapter Administration 2.2.D. The replacement was Richard Stewart the former mayor and fire chief of anther town and he reported the corruption in Stanhope to the FBI and Stat police official corruption unit and was fired with severance pay after he attempted to get me into Stanhope's municipal court so I could review what charges were being field against me for per I note the infested Borough of Stanhope with its corrupt Laddey Clark and Ryan LLC Borough Attorney and Office of Municipal prosecutor with its corrupt Lad Use Board Attorney Dolan and Dolan PA have field false tax returned, had money launder through Stanhope escrow accounts to bribed John Cilo Jr who pretended to be the Borough Engineer of Stanhope ad filed with the Borough false annual financial reports as the CFO and the Borough of apparently decades embezzlement federal, county, state and municipal funds to forester its corruption lead and coordinated by Laddey Clark ad Ryan LLC the Borough Attorney ad or Office of Municipal prosecutor in many corrupt Sussex County municipalities in conjunction with Kevin Kelly of Kelly ad Ward LL, the Sussex County Office of Council Dennis Mc Connell, Esq. Richard Campbell, Esq. an Dennis Lenard, Esq and he attorneys on the GRC rectors' recommendations noted on http://www.nj.gov/grc/meetings/minutes/2007pdf/20101026OpenSession.pdf which of course no one reading the minutes has and cabinet voting members thereon. I note to demonstrate the corruption of the GRC with

any idea of what the executive director its' decision was on any denial of access complaint.

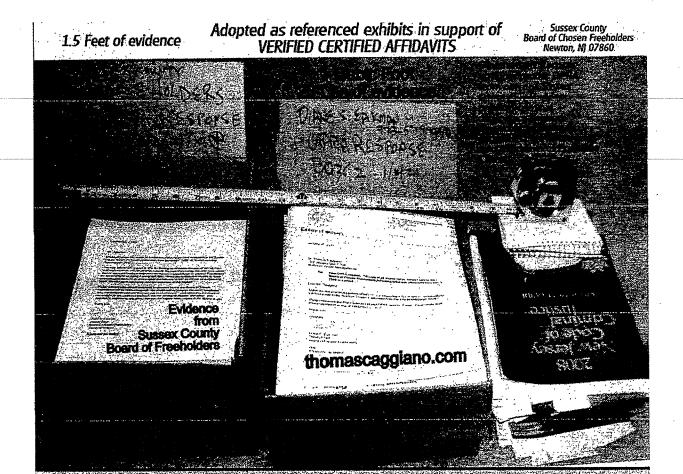
8. If you did any search of GRC records you will find out the GRC found the Borough of Stanhope did violate OPRA more then 24 times. That the former municipal clerk Ms Robin Klein reported after a extensive search of a valid contract copying with the Local Public Contracts Law John Cilo Jr. Associates and Omland engineering Associates could find NO contracts and she notified the Town administrator Teri Massood, he Borough Attorney Richard A. Stein, and the Mayor and Town council. She hired Mr King ad reported the fraud and criminal conduct to in fact 10 agencies. Teri Massood s falsely reported buy the New Jersey Herald which routinely reports deceptive news articles as it is the official newspaper to many corrupt municipalities ad protects them as it is the official newspaper for decades of corrupt towns, township and Borough as Lade, Clark and Ryan LLC coordinated many corrupt towns including the GRC with fraud, retaliation and deception known coast to coast and protected by the Sussex County Prosecutor, a series oo New Jersey Attorneys Generals from Farber, Rabner, Milgram, Dow, Chiesa to the current corrupt Acting NJ Attorney General John Jay Hoffman, Esq. as Gov Christie refuses to nominate a replacement. The Republican Senators and members of the General Assembly do NOT support WE the PEOPLE like Congressman Scott Garrett who now has a large quantity of evidence of the corruption noted by others in municipal resolutions to fire the corrupt Sussex County Administrator John Elkinson who is als the Board of Chosen Freeholders Clerk and has been aware of the corruption for years as you can listen to the 10 minute presentation on Nov 5, 2008 to the Board of Chosen Freeholders with is corrupt chair Hal Wirths now Christie's corrupt Commissioner of Labor and Parker Space is not the District's Assemblyman.

http://thomascaggiano.com/081105SussexCountyFreeholdersMtg.mp3

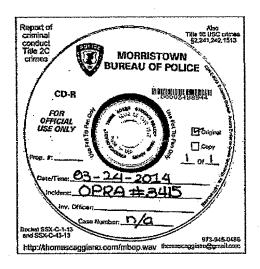
and see the documents I obtained under OPRA below years ago.

Thomas Caggiano. com
Case Study Exposes
in Government

Q 51/11



9. As you should be aware a false report to the police is a crime You can listen to the report on http://thomascaggiano.com/mbop.wav with an image oft he evidence disk from the Morristown police on http://thomascaggiano.com and small image shown below.



thomasciggiano.com

10. Nor has any investigator even looked at any evidence nor contacted retaliated witnesses..

- 11. Providing a false report to the Newton Police would be a crime. You can listen to my telephone complaint on on the following published audio recordings:
- a. http://thomascaggiano.com/20150318-120203-1002.wav
- b. http://thomascaggiano.com/20150318-120812-1002.wav
- c. http://thomascaggiano.com/20150318-120853-1002.wav
- 12 More evidence is published on http://thomascaggiano.com/150408congressmanhardy.pdf a hand-out I gave to my Congressman's Hardy's Chief of Staff on Apr 4, 2015 as it has hundreds or thousands of referenced adopted exhibits.
- 13. You do NOT have e to search of felons as they are you. I have not caused extreme tax-payer expense as I and others died to stop th tax fraud, embellishment, racketeering exposed in US Treasury FOIA responses and U.S.P.S. FOIA and other OPRA responses responses and to others in filed published public records:
- a. http://thomascaggiano.com/CIGIE.pdf
- b, http://thomascaggiano.com/PCU.pdf
- c. http://thomascaggiano.com/TREASURY.pdf
- d. http://thomascaggiano.com/USPS.pdf
- e. http://thomascaggiano.com/PETITIONboroughofstahope.pdf
- f. http://thomascaggiano.com/SenCodey070503.pdf
- g. http://thomascaggiano.com/150320GRCreconsiderationrequest.pdf
- h. http://thomascaggiano.com/USCOURTS.pdf
- i. http://thomascaggiano.com/acjcglenngrant.pdf
- j. http://thomascaggiano.com/150207constable.pdf



SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
<ul> <li>Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.</li> <li>Print your name and address on the reverse</li> </ul>	A. Signature  X Stamped CPO  D Agent  Addressee
so that we can return the card to you.  Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.	B. Received by (Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery Received 1:28 PM Feb 18, 2015  B. is delivery address different from item 12
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PS Form 3811, July 2013 Domestic Ret	tum Receipt 11 Page lette

Open Public Record - Published on http://thomascaggiano.com/150207constable.pdf with hundreds of pages of adopted referenced exhibits proving beyond reasonable doubt evidence of massive conspiracy of FBI, DOJ, Department of Community Affairs, GRC and OAL. et. al.

- 14. I believe the foregoing referenced documents and the first tiered referenced and adopted exhibits justify my standing under Common Law Rights of Access. I note all OPRA restrictions are removed and if any redactions are made to the OPRA or common law right of access specific rationale for each redaction MUST be provided. I also request the record custodian certify their response is accurate and ALSO certify they r th record custodian. As noted in Case law SEARCH is NOT research and a Borough Attorney review is NOT acceptable for preventing a deemed denial of access. If a request for additional time is necessary and I hereby agree to extend the 8 days to May 3, 2015 to respond. I note requests for bills, and contracts is to be immediate. I give no waiver to that part of this request for records to be immediately provided.
- 15. An OPRA form is below and as noted on the OPRA form additional pages may be provided also there is no space on the OPRA form to justify common law right of access so th additional pages of relevant materials are provided on the thousands of referenced adopted public records in paragraphs above.
- 16. These are official minutes which show a continuing conspiracy by supporting unconstitutional court orders that violate 18 <u>U.S.C</u>. §2, §4,§241,§242,§1512,§1513, et.al by by over 50 government attorneys who have violated the Codes of Ethics Rules of Professional Conduct in a repeated pattern of official misconduct NJSA 2C:2C:30-7.a and 7.b, engaged in a conspiracy N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2.b and 18 <u>U.S.C.</u> §2 violation with the State of New Jersey's Judicial Branch protected by the ACJC, OAE and District Ethics Committee and Comptroller / Inspector General of New Jersey and its series of corrupt New Jersey Attorney Generals from Farber to John Jay Hoffman, Esq and Commissioner of Community Affairs Commissioner of Com-



munity Affairs' Susan Bass Levin, Esq. Jon Corzine's' campaign manager to Richard Constable III, Esq with the aide of the LT Gov and Secretary of State Kim Guadagno, Esq. as known by the NJ State Senate and Assembly leadership and members of the Senate judiciary committee as well as may corrupt structured enterprises in the federal government engaging in a repeated pattern of agreed up criminal conduct called racketeering both a federal crime and separate Title 2C State of New Jersey felonies to include but not be limited to: N.J.S.A. 2C: 41-1.1.1.c and d(2), N.J.S.A. 2C:5-1.c conduct designed to aid another in commission of a crime, N.J.S.A. 2C:30-6.a crime of official deprivation of civil rights with bodily harm raising the State Title 2C crimes and all those in the continuing conspiracy to 1st degree as when I was illegally imprisoned not for only 27 days but 85 days by the corrupt Judge Craig U. Dana, J.M.C. using the corrupt Joint municipal court in Green which has sued me under SSX-C-1-13 so that I can not even get court records transferred to it from the corrupt Judge Hansbury, P.J.Ch. P.J.Ch while the case was still ripe suing the corrupt Office of Counsel fro the Sussex Count Board member Dennis Mc Connell and his law firm to obstruct the administration of law to prevent its own fraud, corruption in the conspiracy reported in the Official newspaper Aug 1, 2002. .as the Sussex County Superior court made finding on my municipal appeal that the Township of Green repeatedly violated court rules and also noted with agreement oo the State at no time was my mental capacity questioned during the kangaroo municipal trails i the joint municipal court of Green, Fredon, Hampton and Borough of Andover thereby the court could not only demand an involuntary mental examine AFTER sentencing but at no c=time per court rules could the court demands an voluntary examine after sentencing. As noted in court papers without my approval and without any procedure allowed by the court to my private mental evaluator who in fraud I was insane had a HIPPA violations were uselessly reported to HHS and its Psychological Examiners. The board of Engineers and Professional Planers lare totally corrupt by reviewing the transcripts published on http://thomascaggiano.com/transcripts and large pdf formatted reports on the directory http://thomascaggiano.com/pdf as Dr. Nielsen, MD never had any authority to release my private medical records and through his attorney Kevin Kelly. Esg. letter to Robert Mattia, Esg. was liar as proven by the corrupt Sussex County's own records as I was a retaliated against inmate as were other inmates which was reported to the corrupt Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division Special Litigation Section as noted in the FOIA responses provided to date, the FBI, U.S., Attorney and others have violated FOIA and a complaint was provided to the DOJ Office o Information Policy as even though the FBI wrote in a letter they have 1,330 pages on a CD in response to my FOIA request thy have not provided those records but the FOIA responses available on http://thomascaggiano.com/DOJOPR.pdf is I believe above any reasonable doubt tyranny exists at all levels of government against those that dare exercise their rights of freedom of speech, attend open public meetings and write grievances. Robert Mattia, Esq. office is directly across the street from the Newton municipal building with its Police headquarters. who has refused to provide me my own attorney client records for years.

17. Based upon malicious filings by Borough of Stanhope officials ad employees in th Borough of Stanhope the court Judge John Mulhern, J.M.C. as known by the corrupt Borough Attorney ad office of municipal prosecutor Richard A. Stein, Esq. who is now the Borough attorney fro the infested Township of Green who conspired with the Board of Chosen Freeholders, Sussex County Sheriff, Office of Sussex County Council attorneys Dennis Mc Mc Connell, Esq., Dennis Lenard, Esq. and Dennis Mc Connell, Esq. to with the corrupt Superior Court Judge S. Hansbury, P.J.Ch have removed from the superior Court by Dennis Lenard more then 3 boxes of evidence under Docket SSX-C-1-13 consolidated while the case was still ripe and the after the court permitted OPRA requests, upon the motions by the attorneys s known

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by the corrupt GRC which waited to process the denial of access had Judge Hansbury, P.J.Ch issue a retroactive court order denying me the right even submit a request any government record nor could I attend any open public meeting in the county park nor get access to my own deeds nor file deed changes or obtain copies of any county or municipal codes, nor attend any religious ceremony or any private group Open public meeting be they Democrat, Republican or any their party using the facilities of the County or Township of Green or Stanhope. The Township of Green destroyed its office of municipal prosecutor records in violation of M170000 so no person could obtain these records preventing all transparency in government or by any Prosecutor or Congressional review committee. The Township of Green willfully destroyed and admitted to under oath in a statement of information.

- 18. Based upon the above materials I believe I have Standing Per the Requirements of a Common Law Right of Access request therefore REMOVING ALL restrictions in OPRA.
- 19. My request for records and the format of the requested copies of government records is below. I request the records be certified ad that a certification also be included by the record custodian that the are empowered to be the record custodian.
- a. Provide a copy of this request.
- b. Provide a copy of each OPRA request submitted by Thomas Caggiano from Jan 1, 2010 to April 11, 2015
- c. Provide on a CD copies of emails from thomascaggiano@gmail.com to the Township of Wantage from Jan 1, 2012 to April 11, 2015 to its administrator and other officials.
- d. provide a coy of the letters of recusal from the office of Municipal prosecutor William Haggerty, Esq of Dolan ad Dolan sq to recuse his=myself s prosecutor on cases transferred to the Joint municipal court of Stilwlater, Wantage and Hampton
- e. Provide a copy of emails received by William Haggerty, Esq who apparently was never relived of his duties as prosecutor on cases within its Joint court on State v. Thomas Caggiano. from thomascaggiano@gmail.com from Jan 1, 2010 to April 11, 2015 as the case is still ripe.
- 20. I authorize 4100.00 fro he response.
- 21. my Point of contact information is above.
- 22. I request copies submitted by William Haggerty and payment for his officials duties on State v. Thomas Caggiano during 2013- 2014.
- 23. I request the directive from the Township of Wantage that an alternative municipal prosecutor was assigned to represent the State in <u>State v. Thomas Caggiano</u>.
- 24. I note the excellent court administrator Tania Ell should be contacted as I believe she as required by 18 USC Section 4 and N.J.S.A. 2C: 2-1 reported violations of federal laws to the corrupt FBI and the corrupt State of NJ State Police's Official Corruption Bureau.



## State of New Jersey WANTAGE TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT RECORDS REQUEST FORM



important Notice  The reverse side of this form contains important information related to your rights concerning govern-	ment records. Please read is carefulby
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26. I certify the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false that I am subject to punishment.

thomascaggiano.com