



NEW JERSEY GOVERNMENT RECORDS COUNCIL
Administrative Order – *In Camera* Review

Scott Madlinger
Complainant

GRC Complaint No. 2024-117

v.

Berkeley Township (Ocean)
Custodial Agency

Custodian of Record: Karen Stallings
Request Received by Custodian: March 12, 2024
GRC Complaint Received: May 2, 2024

Order: The GRC must conduct an *in camera* review of the responsive redacted copies of e-mail logs for employee Maureen Cosgrove from February 21, 2024 to March 12, 2024, to determine the validity of the Custodian's assertion that those records were lawfully redacted to safeguard Ms. Cosgrove's reasonable expectation of privacy. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1. See Paff v. N.J. Dep't of Labor, Bd. of Review, 379 N.J. Super. 346, 355 (App. Div. 2005). **Thus, the Custodian shall deliver¹ to the Council in a sealed envelope nine (9) copies of the requested unredacted records, nine (9) copies of the redacted records, and a document or redaction index.²**

Because the Complainant alleged material had been redacted from the disclosed responsive records, and the Custodian certified in the Statement of Information that material had been redacted from said records, but no redactions were seen by the GRC, it appears the redacted material had been deleted in a manner that was not visually obvious. Therefore, delivery to the GRC of the nine (9) copies of the redacted records must contain redactions that are visually obvious. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g); Whiteside v. Twp. of Little Falls (Passaic), GRC Complaint No. 2021-89 (Interim Order dated August 30, 2022).

This is an Administrative Order requiring compliance within ten (10) business days after receipt thereof. The Custodian shall also simultaneously deliver³ certified confirmation of compliance with this Order, in accordance with N.J. Court Rules, R. 1:4-4,⁴ to the Executive Director that the records provided are the records requested by the Council for the *in camera* inspection.

¹ The *in camera* records may be sent overnight mail, regular mail, or be hand-delivered, at the discretion of the Custodian, as long as the GRC physically receives them by the deadline.

² The document or redaction index should identify the record and/or each redaction asserted and the lawful basis for the denial.

³ The certified confirmation of compliance, including supporting documentation, may be sent overnight mail, regular mail, e-mail, facsimile, or be hand-delivered, at the discretion of the Custodian, as long as the GRC physically receives it by the deadline.

⁴ "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."



Effective Date of Disposition: June 24, 2025

Prepared By: John E. Stewart

Date: June 17, 2025

Distribution Date: June 26, 2025