



February 3, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Director, Office of Open Government
Executive Office of the Governor
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
desantis.opengov@eog.myflorida.com

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Public Records Custodian:

Pursuant to Article I, section 24(a), of the Florida Constitution, and Florida's public records laws, as codified at Fla. Stat. Chapter 119, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your office promptly produce the following:

1. All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar invitations, calendar entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) between (a) the officials listed below, and (b) any employees, representatives, or board members of MorseLife Health System, Mack Company, or Mack-Cali Realty Corp, including but not limited to Keith Myers, David S. Mack, William (Bill) Mack, George Shea, Hong Chae, and anyone communicating with an email address ending in @morselife.org or @mack-cali.com.

Officials

- i. Ron DeSantis, Governor
- ii. Shane Strum, Chief of Staff
- iii. Anyone serving in the role of Deputy Chief of Staff, including but not limited to Adrian Lukis, Beau Beaubien, and Anna DeCerchio
- iv. Mara Gambineri, Director of External Affairs
- v. Diane Moulton, Director of Executive Staff
- vi. Joe Jacquot, General Counsel
- vii. Chris Spencer, Director of Policy and Budget



- viii. Anyone serving in the role of Director of Communications, including Frederick Piccolo and anyone presently serving in this role in an acting capacity
 - ix. Meredith Beatrice, Director of Strategic Initiatives
 - x. Cody McCloud, Press Secretary
2. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, and calendar invitations) sent by the officials listed above, that include any of the key terms listed below:
- i. MorseLife
 - ii. Mack
 - iii. Myers
 - iv. Donor
 - v. Donors
 - vi. "Board member"
 - vii. "Board members"
 - viii. "Country Club"
 - ix. "club member"
 - x. "club members"

For both items 1 and 2, please provide all responsive records from December 12, 2020, through the date of the search.

In an effort to accommodate your agency and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited item 2 of its request to emails sent by the listed officials. 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 a listed official's response to an email containing the phrase "MorseLife" and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

Additionally, 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 the Director of Communications sent a mass-distribution news clip email referencing "donors," that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if Chief of Staff Strum forwarded that email to another individual with his own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fee.

American Oversight seeks all responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. In conducting your search, please understand the term "record" in its broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind. We seek records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, as well as letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations or discussions. Our request includes any attachments to these

records. **No category of material should be omitted from search, collection, and production.**

In addition, American Oversight insists that your agency use the most up-to-date technologies to search for responsive information and take steps to ensure that the most complete repositories of information are searched. American Oversight is available to work with you to craft appropriate search terms. **However, custodian searches are still required; your office may not have direct access to files stored in .PST files, outside of network drives, in paper format, or in personal email accounts.**

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 it is your position that a document contains non-exempt segments, but that those non-exempt segments are so dispersed throughout the document as to make segregation impossible, please state what portion of the document is non-exempt, and how the material is dispersed throughout the document. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically that 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 your office 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.

To ensure that this request is properly construed, that searches are conducted in an adequate but efficient manner, and that extraneous costs are not incurred, 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 electronic format by email or in PDF or TIF 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 understand that your office's capacity may be impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak and response efforts. Should that be the case, we would be happy to discuss potential streamlining or narrowing of our request, reasonable delays in processing this request, or other accommodations. Please feel free to contact us at the telephone number listed in the final paragraph of this letter; we look forward to working with you.

Conclusion

American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission 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.¹

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, have any questions, or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please contact Christine H. Monahan at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 869-5244.

Sincerely,

/s/Christine H. Monahan
Christine H. Monahan
on behalf of
American Oversight

¹ American Oversight currently has approximately 15,700 page likes on Facebook and 105,600 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Feb. 3, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Feb. 3, 2021).