

June 11, 2021

### **VIA EMAIL**

Attn: Jotonna Tulloch Open Records Officer Georgia Department of Law 40 Capital Square SW Atlanta, GA 30334 Open\_records@law.ga.gov

## Re: Open Records Request

Dear Open Records Officer Tulloch:

Pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Law (O.C.G.A. §§ 50-18-70 et seq.), American Oversight makes the following request for records.

### Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the Office of the Attorney General produce the following within three business days:

- 1. All records reflecting the full content of any post published to Briefing Room<sup>1</sup> by Attorney General Chris Carr, (including the original post and the complete comment thread).
- 2. All records reflecting the full content of any Briefing Room posts (including the original post and the complete comment thread) on which Attorney General Carr commented.
- 3. All records reflecting the full content of any Briefing Room posts or comments (including the original post and the complete comment thread) mentioning or tagging Attorney General Carr by name, username, or email address.
- 4. All files uploaded to Briefing Room by Attorney General Carr.
- 5. All files downloaded from Briefing Room by Attorney General Carr, whether to a government or personal device.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Briefing Room is a file-sharing network and online bulletin room hosted by the Rule of Law Defense Fund, the non-profit policy arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association. See Andrew Perez & Lee Fang, GOP Law Enforcement Chiefs Invited Donors to Help Set Policy Via Secret Bulletin Board, Intercept (Feb. 12, 2018, 8:01 AM), <a href="https://theintercept.com/2018/02/12/gop-law-enforcement-chiefs-invited-donors-to-help-set-policy-via-secret-bulletin-board/">https://theintercept.com/2018/02/12/gop-law-enforcement-chiefs-invited-donors-to-help-set-policy-via-secret-bulletin-board/</a>.



- 6. All records reflecting the full content of any written exchanges, including chats, concerning legislation or policy issues on Briefing Room in which Attorney General Carr participated. Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and that this request specifically excludes, chats with Republican Attorneys General Association or Rule of Law Defense Fund support staff concerning information technology troubleshooting or related issues.
- 7. All records reflecting the content of Attorney General Carr's Briefing Room member profile page.

Please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2018, through the date the request is received.

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

# 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.
- 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. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Open Records Act.<sup>2</sup>
- 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

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70(b)(2).

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.

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.

## **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.<sup>3</sup>

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with you on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, have any questions, or foresee any problems in fully releasing

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 15,700 page likes on Facebook and 106,100 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <a href="https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/">https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/</a> (last visited June 3, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <a href="https://twitter.com/weareoversight">https://twitter.com/weareoversight</a> (last visited June 3, 2021).

the requested records, please contact Khahilia Shaw at  $\underline{\text{records@americanoversight.org}}$  or 202.539.6507.

Sincerely,

/s/ Khahilia Shaw Khahilia Shaw on behalf of American Oversight