

Clerk

From: Ronni Mackles <opra+request-62532-932b5ec2@requests.opramachine.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 2:00 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: OPRA request - email message Request

Caution: External (opra+request-62532-932b5ec2@requests.opramachine.com)



First-Time Sender

Dear Lawrence Township (Mercer),

This is a request for public records made under OPRA and the common law right of access. I am not required to fill out an official form. Please acknowledge receipt of this message.

Records requested:

I am requesting ALL emails to and from Kevin Nerwinski with my name in them (Ronni Mackles): One year ago (June 2023 to present).

Note, could be just my first name, or just my last name, or my full name.

Yours faithfully,

Ronni Mackles

Please deliver records electronically via email to the below UNIQUE address for all replies to this request:
opra+request-62532-932b5ec2@requests.opramachine.com

Is clerk@lawrencetwp.com the wrong address for OPRA requests to Lawrence Township (Mercer)? If so, please contact us using this form:

https://opramachine.com/change_request/new?body=lawrence_township_mercer

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<https://opramachine.com/help/officers>

View this OPRA request & responses online:

https://opramachine.com/request/email_message_request

COPIES TO:
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☒ ATTORNEY

☒ MANAGER
☒ FINANCE DEPT

JUN - 5 2024

Please note that in some cases publication of requests and responses will be delayed.

If you find this service useful as an OPRA custodian, please ask your web manager to link to us from your website.

☐ POLICE
☐ ENGINEER
☐ PUBLIC WORKS
☐ CODE ENF
☐ CONSTRUCT
☐ OTHER

Kevin Nerwinski

From: Kevin Nerwinski
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 7:32 AM
To: Chris Longo
Subject: RE: Memo from Officer Dasher Brush Inspection May 29 2024 West Long Drive Community

Thank you, Chief. I can't believe Elwood has to endure this...

Kevin

From: Chris Longo <clongo@lawrencetwp.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 9:58 AM
To: Kevin Nerwinski <knerwinski@lawrencetwp.com>
Subject: FW: Memo from Officer Dasher Brush Inspection May 29 2024 West Long Drive Community

Kevin,

See attached, as requested.

Chris

Chief Christopher Longo
Accredited Chief Executive



FBI-LEEDA

Lawrence Township Police Department
2211 Lawrence Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-896-1111 – Main
609-895-0917 – Fax
clongo@lawrencetwp.com – Email

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/LtwpNJPD>

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From: Joe Lech <jlech@lawrencetwp.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 9:56 AM

To: Chris Longo <clongo@lawrencetwp.com>

Subject: Memo from Officer Dasher Brush Inspection May 29 2024 West Long Drive Community

Chief,

I have attached a memo regarding (2) incidents that occurred within the West Long Drive community involving Special Officer Dasher #1172 regarding a verbal altercation with the resident of 28 West Long Drive, Ronnie Mackles. Upon learning of these incidents I instructed Officer Dasher to file a memo to me regarding the incidents. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Thank you in advance.

Joe

Sincerely,

Capt. Joseph Lech IV #180
Lawrence Twp. Police Dept.
2211 Lawrence Road
Lawrenceville, NJ, 08648
Office: 609-844-7108
Dispatch: 609-896-1111
Fax: 609-896-8095
Email: jlech@lawrencetwp.com

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Kevin Nerwinski

From: Kevin Nerwinski
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 11:57 AM
To: Patricia Hendricks Farmer; Jim Kownacki; Christopher Bobbitt; John Ryan; Olympia I'Liou Perry
Cc: Arthur R. Sypek, Jr.; Clerk
Subject: FW: Retaliation and harrassment

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery	Read
	Patricia Hendricks Farmer	Delivered: 5/31/2024 11:57 AM	
	Jim Kownacki	Delivered: 5/31/2024 11:57 AM	Read: 5/31/2024 2:58 PM
	Christopher Bobbitt	Delivered: 5/31/2024 11:57 AM	
	John Ryan	Delivered: 5/31/2024 11:57 AM	Read: 5/31/2024 1:47 PM
	Olympia I'Liou Perry	Delivered: 5/31/2024 11:57 AM	
	Arthur R. Sypek, Jr. Clerk	Delivered: 5/31/2024 11:57 AM	Read: 5/31/2024 12:18 PM

FYI. See the exchange below with Ms. Mackles.

Kevin

Kevin P. Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager/QPA
Township of Lawrence
PO Box 6006
609.844.7005 (telephone)

From: Kevin Nerwinski
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 11:55 AM
To: 'Ronni Mackles' <blasz.ronni@gmail.com>
Cc: Arthur R. Sypek, Jr. <asypek@murphyorlando.com>; Clerk <Clerk@lawrencetwp.com>
Subject: RE: Retaliation and harrassment

Ms. Mackles:

This acknowledges receipt of your email. The details of the incident you describe are at odds with what has been described by our Code Enforcement Officer. Having these negative interactions between township employees performing their duties and residents is disappointing. Your attendance and active participation at council meetings, advocating against the construction of a public fire and emergency services facility situated at the municipal campus, are respected and acknowledged as your right. To suggest that I or anyone working for the municipality would abuse their authority and retaliate against you is deeply offensive and untrue. Though you and I do not know each other personally, I assure you it is not in my nature to do such a thing.

We continue to hope that residents respect and comply with the community's rules and that employees and residents are polite and respectful to each other when enforcement issues arise. Certainly, personal attacks and threats are not appropriate during these stressful interactions.

Kevin

Kevin P. Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager/QPA

Township of Lawrence
PO Box 6006
2207 Lawrence Road
Lawrence Township, NJ 08648
609.844.7005 (telephone)

From: Ronni Mackles <blasz.ronni@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 11:33 AM
To: Kevin Nerwinski <knerwinski@lawrencewp.com>
Cc: Arthur R. Sypek, Jr. <asypek@murphyorlando.com>; Clerk <Clerk@lawrencewp.com>
Subject: Retaliation and harrasment



External (blasz.ronni@gmail.com)



Mr. Nerwinski,

I would like to bring the following issue to your attention.

When I was walking my dog with my husband, I encountered a man in an unmarked vehicle talking with my lawn service provider. When I confronted him and asked who he works for, his answer was "GOD". I also asked him if he is the code enforcement that used to cut Kevin Nerwinski's lawn. In response, he said I was "a racist". I feel that I am being retaliated against and harassed because I speak up at town council meetings about the fire reports. This is unacceptable and I think it should be investigated.

Clerk, please forward to the council.

I look forward to a response from you.

Sincerely,

Ronni Mackles

Kevin Nerwinski

From: Kevin Nerwinski
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 1:33 PM
To: Patricia Hendricks Farmer; Jim Kownacki; Christopher Bobbitt; John Ryan; Olympia I'Liou Perry
Cc: Arthur R. Sypek, Jr.
Subject: FW: Memo from Officer Dasher Brush Inspection May 29 2024 West Long Drive Community
Attachments: Memo May 29 2024 Officer Dasher Brush Inspection West Long Drive Community.pdf

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery	Read
	Patricia Hendricks Farmer	Delivered: 5/30/2024 1:33 PM	
	Jim Kownacki	Delivered: 5/30/2024 1:33 PM	Read: 5/30/2024 2:56 PM
	Christopher Bobbitt	Delivered: 5/30/2024 1:33 PM	Read: 5/30/2024 2:59 PM
	John Ryan	Delivered: 5/30/2024 1:33 PM	Read: 5/30/2024 1:36 PM
	Olympia I'Liou Perry	Delivered: 5/30/2024 1:33 PM	Read: 5/30/2024 4:35 PM
	Arthur R. Sypek, Jr.		

Mayor and Councilmembers:

I am attaching a memorandum prepared by our Brush Inspector, Elwood Dasher, who was verbally abused by resident, Ronnie Mackles. Please read the memorandum in its entirety.

Mr. Whitehead informed me that Ms. Mackles requested accommodation to place her brush out in two different areas (which violates the ordinance) because she had cancer and could not physically bring all of her brush into the location required under our ordinance. Because of her medical condition and to avoid additional verbal abuse from Ms. Mackles, Greg agreed to the accommodation. The accommodation was NOT for the property owner to put the brush out early in violation of the brush ordinance.

Ms. Mackles (and other prominent residents) has come before the governing body with outlandish and false allegations impugning both myself and Jack Oakley in her effort to stop the construction of an Emergency Facility at the municipal complex. Her false claims and accusations are never responded to by you. The result of the silence is her free reign to make any allegation she wants without response, correction, or clarification. She has now been verbally abusive to both Greg Whitehead and Mr. Dasher – who are both just doing their job and enforcing the laws the governing body has passed. She is disrespectful and is making false claims that somehow I involve myself in the brush ordinance enforcement and have targeted residents at West Long Drive. Frankly, I am tired of this projection. I have never and would never do anything that would be an abuse of my position. I have ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO with supervising Elwood's efforts to enforce our brush ordinance. Her threats as to what is going to happen to me seem to be based on more than her wild imagination. Our employees deserve better than this. We all need help and support from you. Everyone is entitled to free speech, but that right does not include silence from public officials at public meetings. I don't know Ms. Mackles. She doesn't know me. She is directing her vitriol towards me because I happen to be the Municipal Manager who identified a fire safety issue that needs to be addressed and had the audacity to have an opinion that using municipal land for an important municipal public safety purpose (that is both geographically appropriate and fiscally responsible).

I am just keeping you in the loop. Many municipal employees are disturbed by what is happening from the words and actions of this very small group of people. I will say it again....we need help.

Kevin

Kevin P. Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager/QPA
Township of Lawrence
PO Box 6006
2207 Lawrence Road
Lawrence Township, NJ 08648
609.844.7005 (telephone)

From: Chris Longo <clongo@lawrencetwp.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 9:58 AM
To: Kevin Nerwinski <knerwinski@lawrencetwp.com>
Subject: FW: Memo from Officer Dasher Brush Inspection May 29 2024 West Long Drive Community

Kevin,

See attached, as requested.

Chris

Chief Christopher Longo
Accredited Chief Executive



FBI-LEEDA

Lawrence Township Police Department
2211 Lawrence Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-896-1111 – Main
609-895-0917 – Fax
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From: Joe Lech <jlech@lawrencetwp.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 9:56 AM
To: Chris Longo <clongo@lawrencetwp.com>
Subject: Memo from Officer Dasher Brush Inspection May 29 2024 West Long Drive Community

Chief,

I have attached a memo regarding (2) incidents that occurred within the West Long Drive community involving Special Officer Dasher #1172 regarding a verbal altercation with the resident of 28 West Long Drive, Ronnie Mackles. Upon learning of these incidents I instructed Officer Dasher to file a memo to me regarding the incidents. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Thank you in advance.

Joe

Sincerely,

Capt. Joseph Lech IV #180
Lawrence Twp. Police Dept.
2211 Lawrence Road
Lawrenceville, NJ, 08648
Office: 609-844-7108
Dispatch: 609-896-1111
Fax: 609-896-8095
Email: jlech@lawrencetwp.com

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LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

2211 Lawrence Road
Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648

Telephone: 609-896-1111
Fax: 609-896-8095
www.lawrencetwp.com



SPECIAL ORDER

TO: Captain Joseph Lech IV
FROM: Officer Elwood Dasher #1172
DATE: May 30, 2024
SUBJECT: West Long Drive Brush Inspection May 29 2024

On May 29, 2024 at approximately 2:00 pm I was conducting my weekly brush inspections and proceeded to Zone 2 of the township which encompasses the West Long Drive community to inspect the neighborhood for any violations. While conducting my inspection I observed a pile of brush which had been placed in the street in front of 28 West Long Drive. I observed a landscaping company, Dimeglio and Son's was working at 28 West Long Drive's property mowing the grass.

I verified that the landscaping company was registered with the township and I advised a member of the landscaping company that the brush could not be placed in the street today as it was two weeks too early for pickup. I explained to the landscaper that they would have to wait till the weekend of June 8th and 9th to place the brush out for pickup.

While standing in the street in front of 28 West Long Dr I was approached by a male and a female who had been out walking their dog. The female immediately approached me, spoke to me in an aggressive manner and advised me that she had permission to put her brush out as a result of having cancer and back problems. The female was very upset and spoke to me in a belligerent tone. The female who had not identified herself asked who I was and what I was doing. I identified myself as Officer Dasher from Lawrence Township code enforcement.

The female continued speaking to me in aggressive manner and said that she had permission from Greg Whitehead to place the brush out early on both sides of her property. The female continued to berate me and said that I was a "crony for Kevin Nerwinski and that I cut his lawn". I explained to her that I do not cut Kevin Nerwinski's lawn and that I work for the township of Lawrence. The female continued to talk to me in an aggressive manner and showed me multiple text messages which she indicated were from Greg Whitehead on her cell phone. The female repeated again that she had permission to put the brush out.

At that point the female told me she was texting Greg Whitehead. A few moments later I received a phone call from Greg Whitehead and he advised me that the female I was speaking with had been sending him multiple text messages, however I should continue to do my inspection within the community.

At some point during the verbal altercation the female identified herself as the home owner for 28 West Long Dr. The female stated over and over that the neighborhood was an old tree farm and should be treated as such. The female continued to yell about the permission she had been given to place the brush out on both sides of her property and she then stated she was calling Greg Whitehead on her cell phone.

The female then called Greg Whitehead on her cell phone and activated the speaker on the phone. I heard Greg Whitehead say to the female, "Ma'am, I am not going to speak with you over speaker phone I will call Elwood directly". The female then looked at me and said, "Oh, your Elwood the lawn guy, you're the flunky for Kevin Nerwinski".

I explained to her that I was not the lawn guy and that I worked for Lawrence Township Code enforcement. The female said, "If I was you I would not hitch my wagon to Kevin Nerwinski's, its going down, there is a conspiracy against this neighborhood."

I then spoke with Greg Whitehead a second time on my cell phone and he explained that he had been advised by one of his supervisors that there was an agreement in place with this resident. Greg further explained that the agreement had been made with this resident in reference to allowing her to put 6ft of brush on each side of her property on West Long Dr and Garden Rd, however nothing was mentioned about special permission for it to come out early.

During the telephone conversation with Greg Whitehead he further explained to me that the agreement was made as a result of the female resident having a medical illness and she needed the ability to utilize both sides of her property for brush pick up. I explained that there was a landscaping company doing the yard work at that time and Greg advised me that he was unaware of that and they would be reevaluating the special permission being granted.

The male that was with the female then interjected into the conversation and said to the female, "Enough already the man is just doing his job", he then advised me that he understood that the brush was being placed out early and it would be moved within 24 hours.

At that point, I went back to my vehicle and left the area for a brief period of time. At approximately 3:00 pm I went back into the West Long Drive community to continue my inspection. As I was conducting an inspection in front of 15 West Long Dr. I noticed a grayish blue SUV approach me operated by the female property owner of 28 West Long Dr. The female said, "There is more to come on this. I want you to know that we understand you are doing your job but this situation is ridiculous. I want to give you a heads up, but this is not over. I am not saying this to threaten you, but it is not over." The female then drove off.

I wanted to pass this information on to you. For the record I issued 14 written warnings and advised two property owners of the brush ordinance for the township. I did not issue the female or male property owners of 28 West Long Dr who I later identified as Paul and Ronni Mackles any written warning on verbal warning.

Thank you.

Officer Elwood Dasher



Kevin Nerwinski

From: Kevin Nerwinski
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 3:13 PM
To: Greg Whitehead; Chris Longo
Cc: Brush Inspector
Subject: RE: Today's Incident

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery	Read
	Greg Whitehead	Delivered: 5/29/2024 3:13 PM	Read: 5/29/2024 3:14 PM
	Chris Longo	Delivered: 5/29/2024 3:13 PM	Read: 5/29/2024 3:18 PM
	Brush Inspector	Delivered: 5/29/2024 3:13 PM	Read: 5/29/2024 3:45 PM

Thank you, Greg. There is no justification for anyone disrespecting any township employee. I wasn't there and I will await Elwood's report for confirmation as to what actually happened.

Kevin

Kevin P. Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager/QPA

Township of Lawrence
PO Box 6006
2207 Lawrence Road
Lawrence Township, NJ 08648
609.844.7005 (telephone)

From: Greg Whitehead <gwhitehead@lawrencetwp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 3:10 PM
To: Kevin Nerwinski <knerwinski@lawrencetwp.com>; Chris Longo <clongo@lawrencetwp.com>
Cc: Brush Inspector <brushinspector@lawrencetwp.com>
Subject: RE: Today's Incident

Hi:

Just to be clear, she called and said she has CANCER. She said she could not physically drag the branches from the back to the front because of her cancer. I agreed that she could place half on Garden because of her medical condition (6'). She never indicated she had a Landscaper, she said she did it herself. This was a few months ago..

I spoke to her today and said Elwood was performing his job. Sounded like she spoke with Elwood harshly. I did explain that we all had a job to perform, she thinks their neighborhood she be treated differently because it was a tree farm.

Regards,
Greg

From: Kevin Nerwinski <knerwinski@lawrencetwp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 2:56 PM
To: Chris Longo <clongo@lawrencetwp.com>
Cc: Brush Inspector <brushinspector@lawrencetwp.com>; Greg Whitehead <gwhitehead@lawrencetwp.com>
Subject: Today's Incident

Chief:

I would like Elwood, who was directly involved in the incident, to provide you with a memorandum detailing the incident he had today with Ms. Mackles. I would like to receive a copy of it and then meet with you and Greg Whitehead early next week to discuss how we will enforce our brush ordinance with the residents at West Long Drive. It's clear that some residents in that neighborhood feel that they are not subject to the community's rules and are entitled to mistreat any township employee who attempts to enforce the rules.

Ms. Mackles' treatment of Elwood is completely unacceptable. No employee should endure such disrespect from anyone, including residents who may think they are entitled to act however they wish.

Kevin

Kevin P. Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager/QPA
Township of Lawrence
PO Box 6006
2207 Lawrence Road
Lawrence Township, NJ 08648
609.844.7005 (telephone)

Kevin Nerwinski

From: Kevin Nerwinski
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 11:55 AM
To: Ronni Mackles
Cc: Arthur R. Sypek, Jr.; Clerk
Subject: RE: Retaliation and harrassment

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery	Read
	Ronni Mackles		
	Arthur R. Sypek, Jr.		
	Clerk	Delivered: 5/31/2024 11:55 AM	Read: 5/31/2024 12:31 PM

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We continue to hope that residents respect and comply with the community's rules and that employees and residents are polite and respectful to each other when enforcement issues arise. Certainly, personal attacks and threats are not appropriate during these stressful interactions.

Kevin

Kevin P. Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager/QPA

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Subject: Retaliation and harrassment



External (blasz.ronni@gmail.com)



Mr. Nerwinski,

I would like to bring the following issue to your attention.

When I was walking my dog with my husband, I encountered a man in an unmarked vehicle talking with my lawn service provider. When I confronted him and asked who he works for, his answer was "GOD". I also asked him if he is the code enforcement that used to cut Kevin Nerwinski's lawn. In response, he said I was "a racist". I feel that I am being retaliated against and harassed because I speak up at town council meetings about the fire reports. This is unacceptable and I think it should be investigated.

Clerk, please forward to the council.

I look forward to a response from you.

Sincerely,

Ronni Mackles