



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR  
**JENNIFER WEBB-MCRAE**  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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October 24, 2023

Via email to: [opra+request-54073-dd737e29@requests.opramachine.com](mailto:opra+request-54073-dd737e29@requests.opramachine.com)

**Re: Records request**

Dear Ms. Erin:

Please accept this letter in response to your records request dated October 14, 2023 and submitted via email. Your request is for the following records: 1) Emails to and from Assistant Prosecutor Shapiro including the TO, FROM SUBJECT, DATE, TIME and ATTACHMENTS regarding Dante Hayes from: March 1, 2021 to May 1, 2021; August 1, 2021 to October 1, 2021; September 1, 2023 to October 1, 2023; April 1, 2023 to June 1, 2023.”

Please find all responsive records attached as Responsive Records A.

This request is most analogous to the matter of Elcavage v. West Milford Township (Passaic), GRC Complaint No. 2009-08 (April 2010), where a requestor requested all emails from a specified sender/recipient ranging from a specified time period. Seeking to curb further ambiguity with regard to what constitutes a valid request for emails under the Open Public Records Act, then, the Government Records Counsel in Elcavage v. West Milford Township (Passaic), GRC Complaint No. 2009-08 (April 2010), clearly stated: "In accord with MAG, supra, and its progeny, in order to specifically identify an e-mail, OPRA requests must contain (1) the content and/or subject of the e-mail, (2) the specific date or range of dates during which the e-mail was

transmitted or the emails were transmitted, and (3) a valid e-mail request must identify the sender and/or the recipient thereof". Where your present request solely refers to the subject matter sought as "Dante Hayes", an electronic search was conducted of this office's email records conforming the parameters you described and utilizing the keyword "Dante Hayes".

Please note that redactions have been made from these records as required under the provisions of the Open Public Records Act. This includes records exempt from release under OPRA as advisory and deliberative materials, which are exempt from the provisions of the Open Public Records Act. Advisory and deliberative materials are exempt from disclosure pursuant to the statutory exemption from the Open Public Records Act for records that constitute inter-agency or intra-agency advisory, consultative, or deliberative material. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1. See also In Re the Liquidation of Integrity Insurance Company, 165 N.J. 75 (2000) and Education Law Center v. NJ Department of Education, 198 N.J. 274 (2009). Notably, in Educ. Law Ctr. v. N.J. Dep't of Educ., 198 N.J. 274 (2009), the Court held that "a record, which contains or involves factual components, is entitled to deliberative-process protection when it was used in the decision-making process and its disclosure would reveal deliberations that occurred during that process". Id. at 280. Records have also been redacted which constitute criminal investigatory records which are exempt from the provisions of the Open Public Records Act. Furthermore, a criminal investigatory record remains exempt from disclosure even after the criminal investigation has been closed. Donna Janeczko v. New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Custodian of Record, GRC Complaint Nos. 2002-79 and 2002-80; Andrew Johnson/Press of Atlantic City v. New Jersey Division of State Police, Custodian of Record, GRC Complaint No. 2004-46. Redactions have also been made in the form of the personal cell phone number of one individual, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 relating to citizen's reasonable privacy interests, wherein

“a public agency has a responsibility and an obligation to safeguard from public access a citizen's personal information with which it has been entrusted when disclosure thereof would violate the citizen's reasonable expectation of privacy.”

The Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office reserves the right to raise any other ground for denial not raised in this response. The failure of the Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office to assert an exception or privilege does not act as a waiver of any ground for denial. If your request for access to a government record has been denied or unfilled within the seven (7) business days required by law, you have a right to challenge the decision by the Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office to deny access. At your option, you may institute a proceeding in the Superior Court of New Jersey. All questions regarding complaints filed in Superior Court should be directed to the Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen C. Sayer", is written over the typed name.

Stephen C. Sayer [114352015]  
Assistant Prosecutor  
Alternate Records Custodian