

**MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP
MUNICIPAL CENTER
750 CENTERTON ROAD
MOUNT LAUREL, NEW JERSEY 08054**

May 19, 2025

Brian Schroeder
c/o opra+request-76112-af31d5e1@requests.opramachine.com

Re: Keyword-Based Communications Search

Dear Mr. Schroeder,

Mount Laurel Township received your May 15, 2025 6:57 p.m. OPRA request when the office reopened on Friday, May 16, 2025. Please accept this timely response.

Your request sought emails and electronic communications sent or received by any Mount Laurel Township employees, officials, or departments that contain any of the following words or terms: geese, good, clip, clipped, security, swamp, MUA, wing(s), feather(s) or bird(s) from January 1, 2020 through May 15, 2025, as well as the following information for each record: sender, recipient, date and time, subject line, full content of the message, including any attachments.

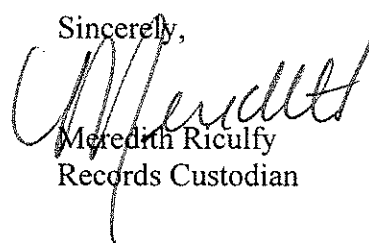
The 2024 OPRA amendments made clear that the requestor seeking communications must provide the name or title of the sender or recipient, the subject term and date range. Your request does not identify the name of the sender or recipient, making it an invalid request subject to denial. Nonetheless, the Township IT consultant ran a search seeking hits on the subject terms for the date range and informed me that the search returned 162,528 responsive emails. This confirms the request is overbroad and must be denied.

As you may be aware, when a records request is made, not only does the custodian need to identify responsive records, the custodian must also review each page to ensure that there is no information subject to redaction. Such information includes, but is not limited to, personnel information beyond that identified in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10, security information, personal identifying information, medical information and names of juveniles. While the agency is permitted to charge a special service fee to review documents for redaction, the review of 162,528 emails (and attachments, if any) would be such a substantial effort that it could shut down Township operations. An estimate, even if each email was one page with no attachments and the Township could review 100 pages an hour by an employee earning \$35.00 per hour, you would still be looking at a fee in excess of \$56,000.

You are requested to refine your search by identifying specific persons or titles, a smaller date range and less generic terms. For example, multiple employees from the Township communicate with multiple employees of the MUA likely on a daily basis. The term "MUA" is clearly driving up the number of responsive documents. Providing more unique terms will help eliminate extraneous documents.

Based on the above, your request is denied and you are invited to submit a new search which identifies specific terms, specific individuals and a small date range.

Sincerely,



Meredith Riculfy
Records Custodian