



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

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Via email to: [opra+request-54523-01de717e@requests.opramachine.com](mailto:opra+request-54523-01de717e@requests.opramachine.com);  
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**Re: Records request**

Dear Ms. Erin:

Please accept this letter in response to your records request which was first received by this Records Custodian on October 25, 2023. A request for a reasonable seven business day extension was posed to you via email on November 6, 2023. Your request is for the following records: “1) Emails to and from Lesley Snock including the TO, FROM, DATE, SUBJECT, TIME, PEOPLE COPIED and all attachments regarding JASON SAMARITANO and/or ERIN SAMARITANO from July 1, 2023 through August 1, 2023; 2) Emails to and from Lesley Snock including the TO, FROM, DATE, SUBJECT, TIME, PEOPLE COPIED and all attachments regarding JASON SAMARITANO and/or ERIN SAMARITANO from September 1, 2023 through October 24, 2023.”

With regard to requests (1) and (2), 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". Accordingly then, a search of this office's email records was conducted for all emails sent to or received by your named individual which occurred during your specified date range, utilizing the subject matter keywords "Jason Samaritano" and "Erin Samaritano".

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.

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,



Stephen C. Sayer [114352015]

Assistant Prosecutor

Alternate Records Custodian