



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

March 5, 2025

South Jersey Victory

c/o opra+request-72369-fb42a60e@requests.opramachine.com

Re: OPRA Request

Dear Requestor:

The Township of Mount Laurel records Custodian received your Open Public Records Act request on Friday, February 28, 2025. The Township provides this timely response.

Your request seeks copies of emails within a specific date range (albeit a considerably long range of five years) and the sender or receipt of the communication. Your request then identifies a series of email addresses, a phone number and the words "the", "be", "to", "of", "a", "and", "Michael", or "Muller" as the search terms. Similar, to the last OPRA denial you received, the Township again denies this OPRA request as the "subject" terms are clearly an attempt to gain any and all communications from municipal officials and the Mr. Muller. The terms are too broad to warrant a proper response as almost every communication contains the subject terms and, by your own request would contain "Michael" and/or "Muller". Your request does not seek specific documents.

The Township denies your OPRA request for the same reasons addressed in the prior denial.

Significantly for present purposes, OPRA only allows requests for records, not requests for information. MAG Entm't, LLC v. Div. of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 375 N.J. Super. 534, 546-49 (App. Div. 2005). In this regard, OPRA "is not intended as a research tool ... to force government officials to identify and siphon useful information." Id. at 546. In other words, a records custodian is not required "to conduct research among its records... and correlate data from various government records in the custodian's possession." Id. at 546-47. To qualify under OPRA then, the request must reasonably identify a record and not generally data, information or statistics.

OPRA does not "authorize a party to make a blanket request for every document" a public agency has on file. Gannett New Jersey Partners L.P. v. County of Middlesex, 379 N.J. Super. 205, 213 (App. Div. 2005). Rather, a party requesting access to a public record under OPRA must specifically describe the document sought. OPRA operates to make identifiable

government records "readily accessible for inspection, copying, or examination." N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1. As such, a proper request under OPRA must identify with reasonable clarity those documents that are desired, and a party cannot satisfy this requirement by simply requesting all of an agency's documents. OPRA does not authorize unbridled searches of an agency's property.

Based on the above, your request is denied.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Meredith Riculfy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "R".

Meredith Riculfy, RMC
Township Manager/Clerk
Records Custodian