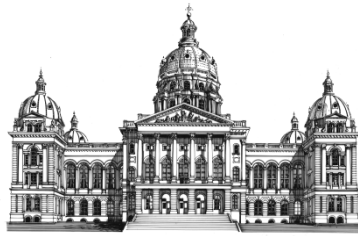


Charles Isenhart
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House of Representatives
State of Iowa
Eighty-Seventh General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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Resources/Environmental Protection

July 11, 2017

Margaret Johnson
Interim Executive director
Iowa Public Information Board
Wallace Building, Third Floor
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Honorable Tom Miller
Attorney General
State of Iowa
Hoover Building
1305 E Walnut St,
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Ms. Johnson and Attorney General Miller:

Attached is correspondence from Colin Smith, legal counsel for Governor Reynolds, in response to a records request from me.

The response states that the Reynolds Administration is not the legal custodian of the records, insofar as the request covers a time period in the Branstad Administration. In a follow-up conversation, Mr. Smith asserted that the Reynolds Administration would not have the legal authority to release the documents, even if they were in the possession of the Reynolds Administration, because they are not the custodian.

Mr. Smith said that the records have been transferred to the Department of Cultural Affairs.

I ask for your assistance in answering the following questions:

1. Is Governor Reynolds accurate in her understanding of the legal status of Governor Branstad's records and that her office has no responsibility to fulfill requests for such records?
2. For Attorney General Miller: In light of your May 1 opinion related to Lt. Governor Reynolds assuming the duties and title of governor, does Governor Reynolds' succession constitute a change in administration justifying the removal of Governor Branstad's public records from the governor's office?
3. What responsibility does the Department of Cultural Affairs have -- under state code, administrative law or court rulings -- to respond in a timely and thorough manner to records requests related to the Branstad Administration?

I thank you for your attention to and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Isenhart".

Charles Isenhart
State Representative