

CHARLES D. BAKER GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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VIA E-mail: <u>92316-37941073@requests.muckrock.com</u>

Dear Ms. Best:

I write in response to your records request to the Office of the Governor, dated April 23, 2020, seeking "Memos, emails, letters, documents, reports, recorded phone calls and virtual meetings and other media discussing or describing COVID-19 response, shutdown and stay-at-home plans and orders, quarantines, and "re-opening" plans, as well as copies of discussions of COVID-19 with CDC, White House, FEMA or similar emergency management agencies, offices of Surgeons General and similar bodies, and management of medical facilities or organizations."<sup>1</sup>

Any records responsive to your request have been withheld consistent with the public records laws as interpreted by the Supreme Judicial Court.

Sincerely,

Paige Ferreira

Paige Ferreira

<sup>1&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Please note that the Office of the Governor is not one of the instrumentalities enumerated in G.L. c. 4, §7, cl. 26, and therefore its records are not subject to disclosure under the public records law. The Supreme Judicial Court has so held. See Lambert v. Executive Director of the Judicial Nominating Council, 425 Mass. 406, 409 (1997). Notwithstanding Lambert, it is the voluntary practice of the Office to consider and to respond to public records requests on a case-by-case basis.

Legal Assistant / Records Access Officer