

CHARLES D. BAKER GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

June 23, 2020

MuckRock News DEPT MR 92316 411A Highland Ave Somerville, MA 02144-2516

VIA E-mail: 92316-37941073@requests.muckrock.com

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."¹

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE • ROOM 271

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02133

TEL: (617) 725-4030 • FAX: (617) 727-8290

GOVERNOR'S LEGAL OFFICE

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 Legal Assistant / Records Access Officer

¹ 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. <u>See Lambert v. Executive Director of the Judicial Nominating Council</u>, 425 Mass. 406, 409 (1997). Notwithstanding <u>Lambert</u>, it is the voluntary practice of the Office to consider and to respond to public records requests on a case-by-case basis.

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