



Tuesday, September 28, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Jennifer Colangelo
Assistant Attorney General
Georgia Department of Law
40 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Robert Royce Complaint

This is the lie. Look at the letter from the City Attorney dated January 6, 2022 - Attached to this letter.

Dear Ms. Colangelo:

I am writing in my capacity as city attorney for the City of Grantville in response to your letter of September 20, 2021, in which you detailed a complaint your office received from Robert Royce concerning an open records request made to the City of Grantville.

Let me begin by stating that Mr. Royce has made a number of recent requests to the City of Grantville pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 *et seq.*, and many of those requests have related to his efforts to obtain records pertaining to the Grantville Police Department's case # 21-07-0005. This case involves Mr. Royce's complaints against Grantville City Council member Jim Sells. After its own initial review of those complaints the Grantville Police Department has now referred that matter to the Coweta Judicial Circuit District Attorney's office where it remains under investigation.

In response to those requests Mr. Royce has been informed that the City is unable to provide any responsive documents as they are exempted from production under the Georgia Open Records Act pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72(a)(8) which exempts from production "[r]ecords consisting of material obtained in investigations related to the suspension, firing, or investigation of complaints against public officers or employees until ten days after the same has been presented to the agency or an officer for action or the investigation is otherwise concluded or terminated, provided that this paragraph shall not be interpreted to make such investigatory records privileged." Enclosed at Exhibit A is an example of a response citing that exemption.

37 Calumet Parkway
Suite F-103
Newnan, Georgia 30263

Phone: 770.800.2327
Facsimile: 770.847.7326
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Jennifer Colangelo
Assistant Attorney General
September 28, 2021
Page Two

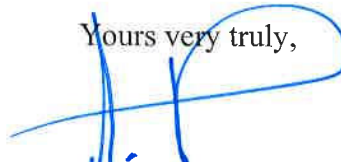
**I caught the City Attorney making
stuff up, just to deny me records.**

Mr. Royce is correct that some of the initial responses to his requests for records related to this matter mistakenly cited O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72(a)(7) as the exemption; however, that issue was corrected in a letter to him dated September 7, 2021. That letter explaining that the correct statutory reference for the exemption relied upon for these requests is O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72(a)(8) is enclosed as Exhibit B.

I trust that this information serves to resolve Mr. Royce's complaint to your office, but if you have any further questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best regards, I remain

Yours very truly,



S. Mark Mitchell

Enclosures

cc: Robi Higgins, City Clerk
Doug Jewell, Mayor

37 Calumet Parkway
Suite F-103
Newnan, Georgia 30263

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Facsimile: 770.847.7326
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RE: RECORDS REQUEST / CLARIFICATION NEEDED

From: Herb Cranford <hcranford@pacga.org>

To: robertroyce <robertroyce@protonmail.com>
Jeffrey Cullen-Dean <jeffrey@newnan.com>

Date: Monday, January 3rd, 2022 at 2:40 PM

Mr. Royce,

There were no requests were made according to the DA files

In response to your below Open Record Request:

- 1) All records regarding your complaint against Jim Sells will be provided to you in the disc that will be available for your pickup at the end of the day (between 4 and 5 pm) on 1/2/22. In other words, your enumerated requests in the below email are duplicative of one of your previous open record requests for the entirety of the case file identified as DA# 21COW01329. I do not believe the DA's Office possesses any requests from GPD or any elected official or employee of the City of Grantville, but if we have such a record it will be included in the disc of documents we're preparing for you to pick up tomorrow.
 - a. For what it is worth, I have some recollection of Steve Whitlock calling me around July 2021 about your allegations regarding Sells. If I remember correctly, he knew he could not lead such an investigation because it would be a perceived, if not actual conflict of interest. I cannot recall if Whitlock had already called GBI or if he said he was going to call them or what. I do have some recollection of telling Whitlock that I would review whatever you had provided GPD to decide if I thought an investigation was warranted. I also recall that sometime thereafter I spoke to GBI SAC Fred Wimberly about your allegations against Sells and that GBI had a letter and documents from you. Then SAC Wimberly and I agreed, as memorialized in his letter 8/12/21 to me, that I would review all of the documents to determine if I wanted to request a GBI investigation.
 - b. In short, we're going to give you tomorrow a copy of every document or record we have relating to your allegations against Jim Sells

Herb Cranford
 District Attorney
 Coweta Judicial Circuit
 Coweta County Justice Center
 72 Greenville St.
 Newnan, GA 30263
 770-254-7300

If this conversation occurred, Whitlock never sent any documents - See the City Attorney response letter date January 6, 2022

SMITH
S'IVILLI
LAW OFFICE OF S. MARK MITCHELL, LLC

Thursday, January 06, 2022

Robert Royce
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RE: City of Grantville, Georgia- Open Records Request

Dear Mr. Royce:


I represent the City of Grantville, Georgia, and your January 4, 2022, request pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 *et seq*) for “1) Copy of any document requesting any law enforcement agency or prosecutor’s office to investigate any or all aspects of police case number 21-07-0005. 2) Copy of all responses by any of the agencies listed in Number 1” has been forwarded to me for response.

In response to your requests, no responsive public records are maintained by the City.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

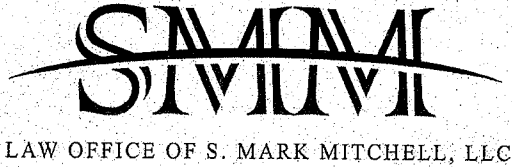


S. Mark Mitchell

cc: Robi Higgins, City Clerk

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MARKMITCHELLLAW.COM



Thursday, January 06, 2022

Robert Royce
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RE: City of Grantville, Georgia- Open Records Request

Dear Mr. Royce:

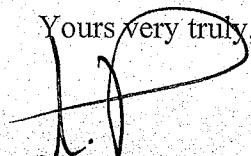
I represent the City of Grantville, Georgia, and your January 4, 2022, request pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 *et seq*) for “1) Copy of any document generated by the Mayor or City Council approving a request for an outside agency to investigate police case number 21-07-0005” has been forwarded to me for response.

In response to your requests, no responsive public records are maintained by the City.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best regards, I remain

Yours very truly,



S. Mark Mitchell

cc: Robi Higgins, City Clerk

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Newnan, Georgia 30263

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SMITH
STEVENS
LAW OFFICE OF S. MARK MITCHELL, LLC

Thursday, January 06, 2022

Robert Royce
[REDACTED]

RE: City of Grantville, Georgia- Open Records Request

Dear Mr. Royce:

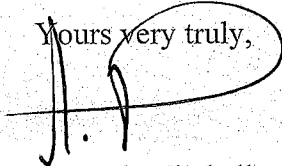
I represent the City of Grantville, Georgia, and your January 4, 2022, request pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 *et seq*) for “1) Copy of all memos & reports submitted to the Mayor or City Council for approval to request an outside agency to investigate police case number 21-07-0005 (This is clearly an issue concerning city affairs and per Code 3.03 approval is required)” has been forwarded to me for response.

In response to your requests, no responsive public records are maintained by the City.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best regards, I remain

Yours very truly,


S. Mark Mitchell

cc: Robi Higgins, City Clerk

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