April 10, 2024

This letter is a request made on behalf of WPSD Local 6 News, The Paducah Sun and its affiliated weekly newspapers for public records pursuant to the Kentucky Open Records Act (KORA). The term "records" as used below, means all documents "regardless of physical form or characteristics, which are prepared, owned, used, in the possession of or retained by" the Governor of Kentucky, Andy Beshear and the office of the Governor of Kentucky. And, as it pertains to any requests for email or text communications between named individuals, it requests all emails or messages, any responses thereto, and all attachments, sent to or from those individuals in any combination, including in communications with other parties not mentioned in the request.

We request public records documenting participation by the Governor and/or members of his staff in drafting legislation regarding Open Records access. The request is specific to but not limited to legislation later styled as House Bill 509 inclusive of but not limited to:

A. Correspondence including email, texts, letters, communications via messaging apps, memos, and reports to and from:
    1. Andy Beshear
    2. La Tasha Buckner
    3. Rocky Adkins
    4. Laura Tipton
    5. Travis Mayor
    6. Taylor Payne
    7. Jonathan Smith
    8. Eric Hyers
    9. Each and every member of the Kentucky House of Representatives
    10. Each and every member of the Kentucky Senate
    11. Each and every member of the Legislative Research Commission staff including bill drafters, staff analysts and legal counsel

B. Open records requests received by the Office of the Governor for records related to HB 509 or its drafting and, if any, the response(s) provided.
C. Records regarding instructions from the Governor or members of his staff as listed above to Democratic Party House members about expected behavior during debate on House Bill 509.
D. Correspondence including email, texts, letters, communications via messaging apps, memos, and reports from the Governor or members of his staff as listed above to and from representatives of The Kentucky Press Association, The Kentucky Broadcasters Association and journalism organizations, companies or advocacy groups about the Governors position on House Bill 509, Open Records Law and government transparency.

E. Correspondence including email, texts, letters, communications via messaging apps, memos, and reports to Governor Beshear or members of his staff as listed above from citizens about the Governors position on House Bill 509, Open Records Law and government transparency.
F. Records including email, texts, letters, communications via messaging apps, memos and reports to Governor Beshear or members of his staff as listed above to Governor Beshear or members of his staff as listed above about open records issues arising from "Kentucky Open Government Coalition v Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission" and legislative responses thereto.

The time frame for our request for records is May 1, 2023 to the present date.

WPSD Local 6 News, The Paducah Sun and affiliated weekly newspapers is a news-gathering organization as defined in KRS 189.635(8)(b)1.a. to e.. Residency is established under KRS 61.870(10)(g). This request is made for noncommercial purposes.

We remind you the General Assembly of the Commonwealth has declared that "free and open examination of public records is in the public interest" and the law "shall be strictly construed, even though such examination may cause inconvenience or embarrassment to public officials or others."

We request your timely response as required by the laws of the Commonwealth. Digital delivery of these documents is preferred.

We look forward to your response within five business days.

Respectfully,

Perry Boxx
News Director
Executive Editor