

Mike Kaszuba  
Public Record Media  
PO Box 8205  
Saint Paul, MN 55108

November 10, 2021

Emily Parks  
Office of Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan  
75 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
Ste. 130  
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

**Via electronic mail**

Dear Ms. Parks,

I am writing today in reference to the attached letter, dated August 9, 2021, and the follow-up correspondence we exchanged on August 12, 2021 (also attached).

My letter of August 9th referenced a Data Practices Act request (“Request”) submitted by Public Record Media on May 28, 2021. That request sought the following public, government data:

1. All e-mail correspondence collected, created, received, maintained, or disseminated by the Governor of Minnesota related to public safety activities that occurred after the death of George Floyd, for a two-week period beginning May 25, 2020;
2. All e-mail correspondence collected, created, received, maintained, or disseminated by the Governor of Minnesota related to the state’s initial COVID-19 shutdown, for a two-week period beginning March 13, 2020;
3. All e-mail correspondence collected, created, received, maintained, or disseminated by the Governor of Minnesota related to the trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin and related public safety activities, for a two week period prior to the date of the trial verdict, April 20, 2021.

In the Request, I asked for a search of the following e-mail “boxes”:

1. All e-mail “boxes” associated with the Governor of Minnesota’s official e-mail address(es), and;
2. The e-mail “box” associated with the e-mail address ██████████@state.mn.us.

In correspondence prior to my August 9th letter, Deputy General Counsel Catherine had informed me of the high volume of data requests that were being processed by the Governor’s

Office at that time. Given that reality, my letter of August 9th sought confirmation that data in all relevant e-mail boxes was being preserved, so that it would be available for subsequent search and production.

In a follow-up e-mail on August 12th, you notified me that you would check to “see if the records [referred to in the Request] were saved.”

My letter today has two purposes:

First, I would like to receive confirmation that responsive e-mail messages associated with all of the e-mail “boxes” identified above have been retained for search and production in connection with my Request. This would include e-mails associated with the e-mail address ██████████@state.mn.us.

Secondly, I would like to check on the status of my Request. Given that three additional months have passed since our last correspondence, I anticipate that some additional activity has occurred in regard to fulfilling this Request.

Please provide me with a written response regarding these matters as soon as you are able.

Sincerely,

Mike Kaszuba  
Public Record Media

## Fwd: RE: Aug 9 letter



**From** <mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org>  
**To** <admin@publicrecordmedia.org>  
**Date** 2021-08-12 10:13

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Aug 9 letter  
Date: 2021-08-11 13:43  
From: "Parks, Emily (she/her) M (GOV)" <Emily.Parks@██████████>  
To: "mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org" <mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org>

Hello Mike,

Catherine was filling in for me while I was out on maternity leave, but I am back now and you can correspond with me on this request. I have saved the letter you attached. Preserving the records requested is the first step in our data request process, but I will take a look to see that the records you refer to in the letter were saved.

Thank you,  
Emily

-----Original Message-----

From: mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org <mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org>  
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 2:33 PM  
To: Parks, Emily (she/her) M (GOV) <Emily.Parks@██████████> Mkaszuba <mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org>  
Subject: Fwd: Aug 9 letter

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Emily Parks  
Office of the Minnesota Governor --

We had been dealing with Catherine Courcy regarding a data request we submitted. I just found out that Catherine no longer works for the governor's office, and that all correspondence should now go to you.

We wanted to make sure the office received this letter (see attachment).

Mike Kaszuba  
Public Record Media

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Aug 9 letter

Date: 2021-08-10 15:17

From: [admin@publicrecordmedia.org](mailto:admin@publicrecordmedia.org)


To: [mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org](mailto:mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org)

Attached

## Fwd: Aug 9 letter



**From** <mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org>  
**To** <admin@publicrecordmedia.org>  
**Date** 2021-08-10 14:35

 August 9 response letter to GOV.pdf (~43 KB)

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Fwd: Aug 9 letter  
Date: 2021-08-10 15:33  
From: [mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org](mailto:mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org)  
To: [emily.parks@state.mn.gov](mailto:emily.parks@state.mn.gov), Mkaszuba <[mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org](mailto:mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org)>

Emily Parks  
Office of the Minnesota Governor --

We had been dealing with Catherine Courcy regarding a data request we submitted. I just found out that Catherine no longer works for the governor's office, and that all correspondence should now go to you.

We wanted to make sure the office received this letter (see attachment).

Mike Kaszuba  
Public Record Media

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Aug 9 letter  
Date: 2021-08-10 15:17  
From: [admin@publicrecordmedia.org](mailto:admin@publicrecordmedia.org)  
To: [mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org](mailto:mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org)

Attached


Mike Kaszuba  
Public Record Media  
PO Box 8205  
Saint Paul, MN 55108

August 9, 2021

Catherine Courcy  
Deputy General Counsel  
Office of Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan  
75 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Ste. 130  
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

Dear Ms. Courcy,

Thank you for your correspondence of July 19th. Based on your correspondence, I recognize that your office is currently fulfilling data requests that arrived prior to Public Record Media (PRM)'s request dated May 28, 2021 (the "Request").

Accordingly, I would like to confirm that your office has, at least, proceeded to identify and retain data sets likely to contain material responsive to the Request, in order that such material may be preserved for later, relevant searches. In the context of the Request, such material would encompass all e-mails created, collected, received, maintained, or disseminated during the date ranges identified in Items 1-3 of the Request. In addition, such material would encompass e-mails associated with both the Governor's "official" e-mail "box(es)," as well as an additional e-mail "box" — @state.mn.us.

On information and belief, it appears that this additional e-mail "box" is utilized for executive branch communications related to the Governor. Given this, and because e-mails transacted by the Governor's Office during the date ranges covered by the Request are likely to shed light on significant historical events - PRM would like to ensure that relevant material from all the e-mail "boxes" identified in the Request has been preserved in such a way that the Request may be properly fulfilled.

Please confirm that this is the case at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Mike Kaszuba  
Public Record Media

## Fwd: RE: Acknowledgment - Governor's Office Data Request

**From** <mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org>  
**To** <admin@publicrecordmedia.org>  
**Date** 2021-07-19 16:34

Hey, Matt -- Latest from the governor's office.

Mike

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** RE: Acknowledgment - Governor's Office Data Request  
**Date:** 2021-07-19 11:23  
**From:** "Courcy01, Catherine (GOV)" <Catherine.Courcy01@state.mn.us>  
**To:** "mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org" <mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org>  
**Cc:** "Hugel, Arielle (GOV)" <Arielle.Hugel@██████████>

Hi Mr. Kaszuba,

Thanks for reaching out. Our office processes data requests in the order that they were received. Unfortunately, we are still working through quite a few older and large data requests at this time, and there is still a delay on newer requests, including yours.

Catherine

Catherine Courcy | Deputy General Counsel  
Office of Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan  
Cell: ██████████

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**From:** [mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org](mailto:mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org) <[mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org](mailto:mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 18, 2021 10:25 PM  
**To:** Hugel, Arielle (GOV) <Arielle.Hugel@██████████>  
**Subject:** Re: Acknowledgment - Governor's Office Data Request

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## Fwd: RE: Acknowledgment - Governor's Office Data Request

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**Cc:** "Hugel, Arielle (GOV)" <Arielle.Hugel@██████████>

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Catherine

Catherine Courcy | Deputy General Counsel  
Office of Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan  
Cell: ██████████

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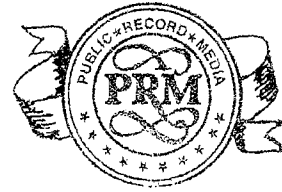
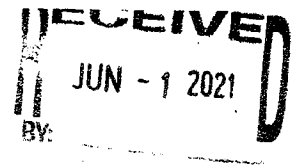
**From:** [mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org](mailto:mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org) <[mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org](mailto:mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org)>  
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**To:** Hugel, Arielle (GOV) <Arielle.Hugel@██████████>  
**Subject:** Re: Acknowledgment - Governor's Office Data Request

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Mike Kaszuba  
Public Record Media  
PO Box 8205  
St. Paul, MN 55108



May 28, 2021

Data Practices Responsible Authority  
Office of the Governor State of Minnesota  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Suite 130  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Data Practices Responsible Authority,

I am requesting access to public, government data under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13). Through my request (the "Request"), I am seeking to inspect and/or copy electronic mail ("email") correspondence as further described in the Items below:

1. All e-mail correspondence collected, created, received, maintained, or disseminated by the Governor of Minnesota related to public safety activities that occurred after the death of George Floyd, for a two-week period beginning May 25, 2020;
2. All e-mail correspondence collected, created, received, maintained, or disseminated by the Governor of Minnesota related to the state's initial COVID-19 shutdown, for a two-week period beginning March 13, 2020;
3. All e-mail correspondence collected, created, received, maintained, or disseminated by the Governor of Minnesota regarding the trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin and related public safety activities, for a two-week period prior to the date of the trial verdict, April 20, 2021.

In your search for responsive data, please search e-mail "box(es)" associated with the Governor of Minnesota's official e-mail address(es), as well as the e-mail "box" associated with the e-mail address [REDACTED]@state.mn.us. For the purposes of this

Request, please construe references to e-mail "boxes" to mean any and all data storage modalities, data technologies, or similar, utilized in the creation, collection, receipt, maintenance, or dissemination of e-mail data responsive to Items 1-3 of this Request.

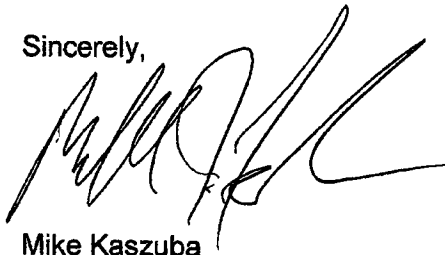
Please consider this letter a formal request for the indefinite retention of the requested data, pending the resolution of its status.

As required by section 13.03, Subd. 3(f) of the Minnesota Statutes, I am requesting that in the event that any portion of my request is not granted, you certify in writing that the request has been denied, and cite the specific statutory section, temporary classification, or other provision of law upon which the denial was based.

This request is made as part of news gathering, and is not for commercial use.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or clarifications regarding the scope of this request. I can be reached at 651-200-9204 (cell), by e-mail at [mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org](mailto:mkaszuba@publicrecordmedia.org), or by U.S. mail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Kaszuba', written in a cursive style.

Mike Kaszuba  
Editor, Public Record Media