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March 31, 2026

VIA CMRRR: 9589 0710 5270 0492 4797 63

Office of the Attorney General, State of Texas
Open Records Section
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

RE: [REDACTED]'s Public Information Act request to Colorado County dated
March 10, 2026 regarding communications

Dear General Paxton:

On March 10, 2026, Colorado County received a request pursuant to the Public Information Act (the Act). This request asked for “[a]ll communications — including but not limited to emails, text messages, written memoranda, letters, notes, and instant messages — between or among any of the following Colorado County officials:

- County Judge Ty Prause
- County Attorney Jay Johannes
- Sheriff Justin Lindemann
- Commissioner Precinct 1
- Commissioner Precinct 2
- Commissioner Precinct 3
- Commissioner Precinct 4

For the time period of January 19, 2026 through the present, concerning any of the following subjects:

1. [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED]
3. The January 19, 2026 incident at the Colorado County Jail
4. Lt. Holly Smith
5. Any civil rights claim, notice of claim, or threatened litigation involving the jail
6. Federal grant funds received by Colorado County, including but not limited to State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), Homeland Security grants (SHSP), or any other federal funds designated for jail operations or compliance
7. The County's lack of PREA policies, PREA coordinator, PREA training, or Use of Force policies — and any notification to the Commissioners Court regarding the same
8. Civil rights compliance certifications or assurances submitted in connection with any federal grant application

SCOPE OF REQUEST

This request includes communications sent or received on both official county accounts and any personal email accounts, personal cell phones, or other personal devices used to conduct county business. Under Texas law, records do not lose their public character simply because they are stored on a personal device or account.

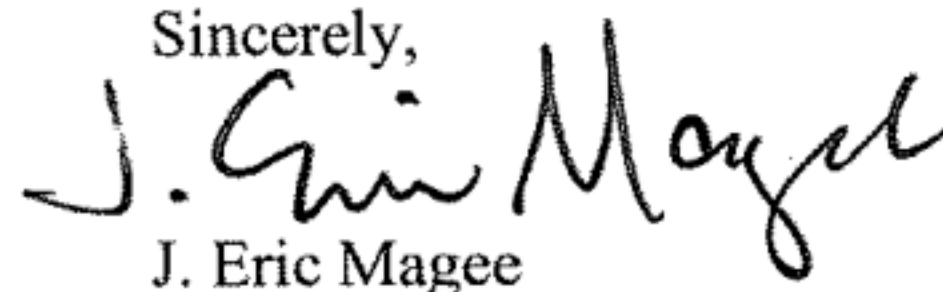
This request specifically includes any communications between or among members of the Commissioners Court (the County Judge and Commissioners from Precincts 1-4) that discuss any of the subjects listed above. I am particularly interested in any communications that may have created a quorum of the Commissioners Court outside of a properly noticed public meeting.”

Colorado County has provided a timely response to Mr. [REDACTED] with regards to the request for information. On behalf of Colorado County, a decision from the Attorney General is respectfully requested regarding our determination that the responsive information is protected from disclosure by sections 552.103 and 552.107 of the Texas Government Code. Colorado County withdraws its request for a confidentiality ruling based on sections 552.101, 552.108, 552.111 and 552.136.

A copy of the request for information submitted by Mr. [REDACTED] is attached hereto under Tab 1. Tab 2 is our initial response to Mr. [REDACTED]. We refer you to the Special Notice contained on the last page of that response as evidence of our compliance with section 552.201(d)(2) of the Act. Tab 3 contains all responsive information to this request. Tab 4 is our discussion of the applicable exceptions to disclosure for which we are withholding the documents pending a decision as permitted by the Act. Tab 5 is the Notice of Claim & Formal Demand for Preservation of Evidence. We have provided a courtesy copy of this discussion to the requestor.

Your time and attention to this matter are appreciated.

Sincerely,



J. Eric Magee

JEM/jm

Enclosures

cc: [REDACTED], requestor