
From: AG Webteam [AG]
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32eb
d113-webteam>
To: IDRBankruptcy [IDR]
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=28c9f83f3a3144399239484aa2c4
17b8-idrbankrupt>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: Re: The Form of the Standing Sailor and the Iowa Licensed Lawyers
Passed Out Under the State Bar
Date: Fri Jan 17 2025 11:56:14 CST
Attachments: merritt.pdf

From: pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 11:47 AM
To: Bayens, Stephan <bayens@dps.state.ia.us>
Cc: ipib@iowa.gov; Aspercoatty, J <general@jaspercoatty.org>; susan.christensen@iowacourts.gov; AG Webteam [AG] <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>; Recorder@jasperia.org; reaton@jasperia.org; btalsma@jasperia.org; dcupples@jasperia.org; evelyng@newtongov.org; info@iowacapitaldispatch.com; chunter@registermedia.com; melissad@newtongov.org; stacys@newtongov.org; stevem@newtongov.org; joelm@newtongov.org; mtupper@marshalltown-ia.gov; icrc@iowa.gov; Records [IGOV] <Records@governor.iowa.gov>; randye@newtongov.org; markh@newtongov.org; wsimmons@grinnelliowa.gov
Subject: Fwd: Re: The Form of the Standing Sailor and the Iowa Licensed Lawyers Passed Out Under the State Bar

Commissioner Bayens:

I am respectfully requesting all Iowa Department of Public Safety records related to the attached electronic mail that evidence indicates you have been concealing since they were originally requested in January 2024. I am respectfully requesting all records related to Michael James Merritt DOB: 12/25/1978, DL: Look it Up.

Bayens how would you feel if you served something honorably for twenty years and then when you returned home and asked for help that entity produced evidence of throwing your life and your family in a ditch and criminalizing your lawful efforts to restore it.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt

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

From: "Eckley, Erika" <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>

To: "pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net"
<pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net>
Date: 11/15/2024 4:04 PM CST
Subject: Re: The Form of the Standing Sailor and the Iowa Licensed Lawyers Passed
Out Under the State Bar

emails you requested via phone on 11/13

Erika Eckley, Executive Director
Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB)

On Tue, Nov 12, 2024 at 2:23PM pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:
pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.
net> <pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> > wrote:
State of Iowa Judicial Branch:

I am requesting an electronic mail address to forward over 40 proposed exhibits supporting Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Review Board complaints against Matthew Brick and James Brick of Brick Gentry P.C regarding their alleged unethical acts designed to conceal and misrepresent the alleged unethical acts of their client the City of Newton, IA. At the same time, the evidence supports that they deployed acts including false allegations of criminal conduct, restriction of rights and liberties during the 2022 election year without due process, misrepresentation of facts on court documents, and other unethical acts that evidence indicates violated the Iowa Rules of the Court Chapter 32 while producing documented damage to the mental health and service-connected disabilities of an honorably retired United States Navy Veteran (US Department of Veterans Affairs documented elevation of service-connected mental health disabilities from 50% to 70% during the Summer of 2023).

<https://stream.phoenixharbor.net/w/tbvVbVzFYcrJBrTFTUDqBc?start=24m17s>
<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fstream.phoenixharbor.net%2Fw%2FtbvVbVzFYcrJBrTFTUDqBc%3Fstart%3D24m17s&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7C33f613304f2a47c6f21908dd08c23b3e%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638676353063046678%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilskFoljoiTWFpbGlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fSpPztJfCUlxi5sENZFRVvRD%2FCIrpYbRbz9nV2yN5%2F8%3D&reserved=0>>

Complaints are pending regarding the following individuals believed to be licensed by the Iowa Court:

James Brick
Matthew Brick
Scott Nicholson
Julie Pottorff
Erika Eckley

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt

On 11/10/2024 9:25 PM CST pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:

pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> <pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> > wrote:

Jasper County, IA, Attorney Scott Nicholson

I am respectfully requesting the following Jasper County, IA, Facebook Block Lists in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22 and IPIB Case 22FC:0091. At the same time, the evidence shows you misrepresented on 09 NOV 2022 to the IPIB that you already provided the below social media block list public records.

Jasper County, IA
Jasper County, IA Sheriff
Brandon Talsma Jasper County, IA Supervisor
Doug Cupples, Jasper County, IA Supervisor
Jasper County, IA Recorder's Office
Jasper County, IA Health Department

All alleged vexatious or "abusive" public records requests reported during the November 2023 Jasper County, IA Supervisors' public meeting and Newton Daily News Article: <https://www.newtondailynews.com/news/local/2023/11/14/jasper-county-changes-open-records-policy-to-thwart-abusive-requests/> <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.newtondailynews.com%2Fnews%2Flocal%2F2023%2F11%2F14%2Fjasper-county-changes-open-records-policy-to-thwart-abusive-requests%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7C33f613304f2a47c6f21908dd08c23b3e%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638676353063071825%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=X9MzRZE%2FnOVMaVpMYNk0U3CUYkHwNZr1%2FGa%2BhmswH7w%3D&reserved=0>>

You can either provide these social media block lists as you indicated you already had on 09 NOV 2022 during IPIB case 22FC:0091 and deal with an Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Review Board Complaint, or you can help me with dismantling both your career's integrity and every member of the Iowa Public Information Board during a future IPIB public meeting if it becomes necessary in accordance with Iowa Code Sections 22.8(4.) (d.) and 23.7.

I would also like to bring the following to your attention regarding the evidence of your offices historical conduct, multiple false allegations of criminal conduct against me, and other alleged misconduct as it possibly relates to documented damages to my mental health that occurred from July 2017 - July 2023 and possible relevance with Iowa Code Sections 708.1(2.) (b.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.1.pdf>> , 708.2(2.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.2.pdf>> , Iowa Code Section 802.3 <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/802.3.pdf>> , and the Iowa Rules of the Court Chapters 32:4.1(a.), 32:4.4 (a.), 32:8.4(a.), 32:8.4(b.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/ICRC/32.pdf>> (See: Iowa Code Section 708.7(1.) (a.) (4.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.7.pdf>> and 718.6) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/718.6.pdf>> , 32:8.4(c.), 32:8.4(d.), 32:8.4(e.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/ICRC/32.pdf>> (See: IPIB Case 22FC:0091 <<https://ipib.iowa.gov/22fc0091-michael-merrittjasper-county-dismissal-order>>)

It is my belief that most reasonable minded individuals even one with

mental health disabilities would exist in a state of fear, panic, intimidation, or annoyance regarding possible unlawful physical contact, restraint, or assault during an unlawful arrest based upon the evidence of the false allegations of criminal conduct (708.7 <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.7.pdf>> /708.11 <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.11.pdf>>) that evidence shows have originated from your office against me during numerous public records requests that evidence shows you ignored, disregarded, or failed to properly respond. At the same time, considering the evidence of your offices involvement in the evidence supporting Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Eckley's state-wide vexatious lie in September 2023 while she sought expanded unconstitutional political power that attempted to void our constitutional requirement regarding due process for all citizens. I have evidence connecting this proposed legislation to your office.

Scott are you going to sue me for slander (See: City of Grinnell, IA 14 APR 2023 public record - Captain Johnson Report), make an arrest, or are you simply going to keep calling the Jasper County, IA Sheriff and tell him I am harassing your office every time I provide your office evidence of its misconduct. I am sitting here at McDonald's on the south side of Marshalltown, IA <[My depression and panic take me to a place darker than any night I have served on the Atlantic. That is when I turn to my faith and stand up to the unethical in accordance with our laws and direct them to can it.](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fmaps%2Fplace%2FMcDonald%27s%2F%4042.005659%2C-92.9142729%2C17z%2Fdata%3D!3m1!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x87efa50e83dda11d%3A0xe3835c9f9a62c069!8m2!3d42.005655!4d-92.911698!16s%252Fg%252F1ffc2!0j%3Fentry%3Dttu%26g_ep%3DEgoyMDI0MTEwNi4wIKXMDSOASAFQAw%253D%253D&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7C33f613304f2a47c6f21908dd08c23b3e%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638676353063089088%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Su%2B0qoexXe1Zx1XMN4WKWDH2Lwo4%2FV0Zv7%2F8isQ9484%3D&reserved=0> , with a half full cup of Dr. Pepper wondering if you are ever going to show up and get me a refill.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

https://youtu.be/Mwq01_cwrXM?si=pHdbNsqlskCzJZxF <[Why was I Honorably Retired at 20 years...It's complicated. :\)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FMwq01_cwrXM%3Fsi%3DpHdbNsqlskCzJZxF&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7C33f613304f2a47c6f21908dd08c23b3e%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638676353063104722%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Ot%2FNpFahEWY8v1fxT4hLzVXIBmTVHyOnnpEOozeZA%2Bg%3D&reserved=0></p></div><div data-bbox=)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql2oHbGsG1Y> <[Page 4 of 183](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3Dql2oHbGsG1Y&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7C33f613304f2a47c6f21908dd08c23b3e%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638676353063124069%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=R%2BRd235YbhcQiihPv%2FaG%2B3n2%2BtOmKvLua91SrVkW8NA%3D&reserved=0></p></div><div data-bbox=)

It was my extreme honor to serve you all.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt

On 11/10/2024 7:39 PM CST pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net
<mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:
pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> <pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:
pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> > wrote:

Randy/Mark,

I respect you both as leaders, but I am telling you this as my friend. I halted my public records work because I have become consumed in paralyzing pain and panic. I contacted the Marshalltown Police Department last night and they helped me. I am going to be going to the VA for 6 weeks for inpatient treatment on Wednesday. I want to thank you for your friendship.

I have nothing left, but I am going to continue my public records work, because it is when the world is the darkest the Light within our souls must shine the brightest.

https://youtu.be/yokGq0yKdUc?si=ym6SWov9qv_HBtUt <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FyokGq0yKdUc%3Fsi%3Dym6SWov9qv_HBtUt&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7C33f613304f2a47c6f21908dd08c23b3e%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638676353063138570%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWU%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=i4Kw3rInbWNsFpMERjtw3eUAMTfI0DARLVew%2FfjT4SM%3D&reserved=0>

All proposed exhibits against the City of Newton, IA will be submitted to the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Review Board against Matthew Brick. In light of what I have lost recently I had no desire to play hide and seek with a licensed lawyer and a Chief of Police in court. At the same time, that court case only sought glory for myself when I seek to only glorify my Lord Jesus Christ.

VA Nurse: Doc, the Cipher Hunter Model 101 is in the ward heavily damaged.

VA Doc: Is that the one that tells horrible jokes even though we programmed him not to.

VA Nurse: Uhhh

Cipher Hunter: "Did you all ever hear about the three-legged dog that walked into the bar, He said, Im lookin for the guy that shot my Pa.

VA Doc: Give him a 2 Liter of Pepsi, and get him the hell out of

here. He'll be alright.

Your friend and humble public servant,

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt

Owner: AG Webteam [AG] </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32ebd113-webteam>
Filename: merritt.pdf
Last Modified: Fri Jan 17 11:56:14 CST 2025

wd: Consolidated Update

message

Tue, Aug 8, 2023 at 3:51 F

ckley, Erika <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>
r: SecurityAwareness@iowa.gov

I am not certain if this is anything that you all can address or need to address, but I have ongoing concerns regarding the activity from Mr. Merritt. I sent some information to public safety, but they suggested I contact OCIO. Mr. Merritt is making 1000s of records requests to government entities. He has a right to do that. The concern I have is that he has stated that he wants to develop a database of the government email systems etc. I know he is prolific in his postings online, and I am not sure how much information he has gathered or what he has posted that could potentially create risks and vulnerabilities to government entities. He continues to tout his military training in data security, so I am certain he is able to pull quite a bit of information from his requests.

I have concerns about the scope of what is being collected and potential harm that could be done if there is a database that shares information that could be useful to others to harm these government systems if bad actors were able to use the information to insert malware or ransomware.

If there is no concern, then please let me know. If there is concern, then any recommendations you have to assist in educating entities about how to respond to requests for emails and data information or what to retain for security would be much appreciated.

Thank you for your time.

Erika Eckley, Executive Director
Iowa Public Information Board (PIB)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael J. Merritt** <cipherus.x1@cipherphoenix.com>
Date: Tue, Aug 1, 2023 at 10:29 AM
Subject: Consolidated Update

To: <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>, <bayens@dps.state.ia.us>, <emily.wharton@blind.state.ia.us>, <scott.marler@dot.iowa.gov>, <kgarcia@dhs.state.ia.us>, <beth.townsend@iwd.iowa.gov>, <treasurer@tos.iowa.gov>, <debi.durham@iowaeda.com>, <michael.naig@iowaagriculture.gov>, <greg.samorajski@pers.org>, <paul.pate@sos.iowa.gov>, <kmathis@allamakeecounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@adamscounty.iowa.gov>, <lkent@wapellocounty.org>, <crane@vanburencounty.iowa.gov>, <aassink@floydcoia.org>, <general@jaspercoatty.org>, <jphillips@idacountyia.us>, <damundson@humboldtcountyia.org>, <ggreer@shco.org>, <recorder@jonescountyia.gov>, <k.kallas@pottcounty-ia.gov>, <karol.kennedy@dubuquecountyiowa.gov>, <tberry@co.fremont.ia.us>, <leggers@dickinsoncountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@co.greenes.ia.us>, <kreierson@co.fayette.ia.us>, <recorder@polkcountyiowa.gov>, <recorder48@iowacounty.iowa.gov>, <helliott@mitchellcoia.us>, <recorder@marioncountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@kossuthcounty.iowa.gov>, <bittnerr@lucasco.org>, <recorder@keokukcounty.iowa.gov>, <awittrock@carrollcountyiowa.org>, <creis@bvcountyiowa.com>, <recorder@marshallcountyia.gov>, <steffener@dmcounty.com>, <recorder@scottcountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@plymouthcountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov>, <sweeks@claycounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@guthriecounty.gov>, <nbooten@leecounty.org>, <ssmith@obriencounty.iowa.gov>, <fgeith@hamisoncounty.iowa.gov>, <dshindler@co.delaware.ia.us>, <recorder@taylorcounty.iowa.gov>, <sboothby@co.cherokee.ia.us>, <recorder@montgomerycountyia.gov>, <mbahnsen@cedarcountry.iowa.gov>, <besaias@co.page.ia.us>, <lkadner@hardincountyia.gov>, <recorder@henrycountyiowa.us>, <recorder@crawfordcounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@warrencountyia.org>, <recorder@grundycountyiowa.gov>, <dbaker@wrightco.iowa.gov>, <aschauf@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov>, <sruppert@paloaltocounty.iowa.gov>, <dcattorney@dallascountyiowa.gov>, <thayes@louisacountyia.gov>, <rvokaty@howardcounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder1@poweshiekcounty.org>, <janderson@cityofiowafalls.com>, <info@cityofasbury.com>, <cityclerk@denisonia.com>, <bward@osceolaia.net>, <cityclerk@chariton.org>, <alent@indianolaia.gov>, <elinorp@siouxcenter.org>, <cjeff@cityofjeffersoniowa.org>, <webmaster@forddodgeiowa.org>, <rwilliams@grimesiowa.gov>, <trudy@cityofcharlescity.org>, <cityclerk@orangedcityiowa.com>, <gmcolarnon@cityofclarinda.com>, <info@manchester-ia.org>, <bwilkerson@tiffin-iowa.org>, <dbell@algonaiowa.gov>, <info@cityofeldridgeia.org>, <cityclerk@independenceia.org>, <diane.voss@cityofames.org>, <msmith@cityofpella.com>, <cityhall@lemarsiowa.com>, <CityHall@cityofsergeantbluff.com>, <bjorth@centrallyon.org>, <sbisgard@linnmar.k12.ia.us>, <tluxford@george-littlerock.org>, <earleyr@live.siouxcityschools.com>, <ahawkins@dbqschools.org>, <jeff.maeder@columbuscsd.org>, <mash@sccioa.edu>, <public-records@uiowa.edu>, <admissions@iwcc.edu>, <stoaks@swccioa.edu>, <Helpdesk.Email@indianhills.edu>, <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>

Cc: Matt Brick <Matt.Brick@brickgentrylaw.com>

To those who have responded honorably and professionally, it has meant a lot to me. I am a retired United States Navy Veteran that has investigated the concealment of my children across three states since 2017 and the government bodies (City of Newton, IA/Jasper County, IA) who have produced evidence of concealing public records related to domestic abuse, misrepresenting facts, 1st Amendment right violations during the 2022 election year, misrepresenting a public record, falsely accusing a citizen requesting public records in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22 of criminal conduct during two separate Iowa Public Information Board cases, and inconsistent enforcement of Iowa Code Section 708.7. At the same time, these government bodies (City of Marshalltown, IA, City of Newton, IA, Jasper County, IA) have produced direct/indirect evidence of discrimination against a documented service-connected mental health disability related to their enforcement of this section of the Iowa Code.

I am not a lawyer, I am a Father and a United States Navy Sailor that will execute acts according to my faith, the US Code, and the Iowa Code. At the same time, I work to protect the reader of this electronic mail and their children from what my children have lost.

If all the State of Iowa has is false allegations of criminal conduct supported by zero evidence, \$9000 record fees to search for eight electronic mail addresses, and inconsistent law enforcement documented on concealed public records.

I will wait in prayer for the only Teacher and the only Judge to deliver the Truth as the Light reveals it.

MEMORANDUM

From: Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com

To: Iowa Government Bodies Consolidated

Subj: IOWA OPEN RECORDS REQUEST - UPDATE - CONSOLIDATED

2. Iowa Code Title I State Sovereignty and Management, Chapter 23 Public Access to Government Information (Iowa Public Information Board Act) - Section 23.7 - Filing of complaints with the board.

1. Public Record Request Guidance

(a.) Time Frame of Request

Government bodies included in this status request are requested to provide any available records stored and preserved by the government body in receipt of the original request that matches the provided criteria, including any electronic mail records that include any of the eight provided addresses in an electronic mail file stored and preserved by the government body.

(b.) Government body requests completion of a specific form

Iowa Code Section 22.4 states:

"2. In writing, by telephone, or by electronic means. The lawful custodian of the records shall post information for making such requests in a manner reasonably calculated to apprise the public of that information."

The Iowa Legislature has protected a citizen's right to submit a public records request in writing, by telephone (voice), or by electronic means in accordance with Iowa Code Section 22.4. This section of the Iowa Code does not support a government body having the ability to require a specific form to be completed, whether static or dynamic, because this requirement voids an Iowa citizen's right to submit their request for public records by telephone. All Iowa Government Bodies receiving this update have received the previous public records request electronically. No further submissions or proprietary forms will be completed.

(c.) Government Body Fee's IAW Iowa Code Section 22.3

The link below provides examples of over 40 Iowa Government Body Microsoft 365 organizational users (as confirmed by public DNS - Domain Name System - records) that completed either of the following:

- (a.) Completed a search of the government body mail server and reported no records matched the provided parameters in the original record request with zero fees.
- (b.) Completed a search of the government body mail server and reported the exact quantity of records located and a reasonable fee for designated personnel to verify the record status concerning Iowa Code Section 22.7.
- (c.) Completed a search of the government body mail server and provided all located public records with zero fees.

<https://airtable.com/appI0bqEiYK0lc1OC/shrkUYIPeHmGu5k50>

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208

"Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay."

Cipher Hunter

- Iowa Open Records Request - Attorney General (Department of Justice) - 463 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Public Safety - 468 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department for the Blind - 464 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Transportation - 469 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Human Services - 466 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Workforce Development - 470 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Office of the Treasurer of State - 476 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Economic Development Authority - 471 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - 465 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System - 473 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Public Health - 467 - CM-X2

Attachment # of 1
Iowa Open Records Request - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Wapello County IA - 545 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Van Buren County IA - 544 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Floyd County IA - 500 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County IA - 514 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Ida County IA - 511 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Humboldt County IA - 510 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Shelby County IA - 541 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jones County IA - 516 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Pottawattamie County IA - 537 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Dubuque County IA - 498 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Fremont County IA - 502 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Dickinson County IA - 497 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Greene County IA - 503 - CM-X2
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11 attachments

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-  **Record Request - 1686700018752.pdf**
94K
-  **PRR 3187 Invoice.pdf**
197K
-  **Record Request - 1686700180772.pdf**
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-  **Cipher Phoenix Mail - Public records requestfsd.pdf**
66K
-  **Unnamed attachment.pdf**
21K
-  **Cipher Phoenix Mail - Iowa Open Records Request - Greene County IA - 503 - CM-X2- Status Request - 01 of 02.pdf**
81K
-  **Record Request - 1686700223126.pdf**
94K
-  **Iowa Open Records Request - Update - Michael J Merritt - 31 JUL 2023.pdf**
89K
-  **Record Request - 1686700007298.pdf**
94K

wd: Consolidated Update

message

Tue, Aug 8, 2023 at 3:51 F

ckley, Erika <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>
SecurityAwareness@iowa.gov

I am not certain if this is anything that you all can address or need to address, but I have ongoing concerns regarding the activity from Mr. Merritt. I sent some information to public safety, but they suggested I contact OCIO. Mr. Merritt is making 1000s of records requests to government entities. He has a right to do that. The concern I have is that he has stated that he wants to develop a database of the government email systems etc. I know he is prolific in his postings online, and I am not sure how much information he has gathered or what he has posted that could potentially create risks and vulnerabilities to government entities. He continues to tout his military training in data security, so I am certain he is able to pull quite a bit of information from his requests.

I have concerns about the scope of what is being collected and potential harm that could be done if there is a database that shares information that could be useful to others to harm these government systems if bad actors were able to use the information to insert malware or ransomware.

If there is no concern, then please let me know. If there is concern, then any recommendations you have to assist in educating entities about how to respond to requests for emails and data information or what to retain for security would be much appreciated.

Thank you for your time.

Erika Eckley, Executive Director
Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael J. Merritt** <cipherus.x1@cipherphoenix.com>
Date: Tue, Aug 1, 2023 at 10:29 AM
Subject: Consolidated Update

To: <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>, <bayens@dps.state.ia.us>, <emily.wharton@blind.state.ia.us>, <scott.marler@doj.iowa.gov>, <kgarcia@dhs.state.ia.us>, <beth.townsend@iwd.iowa.gov>, <treasurer@tos.iowa.gov>, <debi.durham@iowaeda.com>, <michael.naig@iowaagriculture.gov>, <greg.samorajski@pers.org>, <paul.pate@sos.iowa.gov>, <kmathis@allamakeecounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@adamscounty.iowa.gov>, <lkent@wapellocounty.org>, <icrane@vanburencounty.iowa.gov>, <aassink@floydcoia.org>, <general@jaspercoatty.org>, <jphillips@ic.acountyia.us>, <damundson@humboldtcountyia.org>, <ggreer@shco.org>, <recorder@jonescountyiowa.gov>, <k.kallas@pottcounty-ia.gov>, <karl.kennedy@dubuquecountyiowa.gov>, <tberry@co.fremont.ia.us>, <leggers@dickinsoncountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@co.greenie.ia.us>, <kreierson@co.fayette.ia.us>, <recorder@polkcountyiowa.gov>, <recorder48@iowacounty.iowa.gov>, <helliott@mitchellcoia.us>, <recorder@marioncountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@kossuthcounty.iowa.gov>, <bitnerr@lucasco.org>, <recorder@keokukcounty.iowa.gov>, <awittrock@carrollcountyiowa.org>, <creis@bvcountyiowa.com>, <recorder@marshallcountyia.gov>, <steffenern@dmcounty.com>, <recorder@scottcountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@plymouthcountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov>, <sweeks@claycounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@guthrieconomy.gov>, <nbooten@leecounty.org>, <ssmith@obriencounty.iowa.gov>, <felth@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov>, <dschindler@co.delaware.ia.us>, <recorder@taylorcounty.iowa.gov>, <sboothby@co.chokeee.ia.us>, <recorder@montgomerycountyia.gov>, <recorder@cedarcountry.iowa.gov>, <besaias@co.page.ia.us>, <lkadner@hardincountyia.gov>, <recorder@henrycountyiowa.us>, <recorder@crawfordcounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@warrencountyia.org>, <recorder@grundycountryiowa.gov>, <dbaker@wrightco.iowa.gov>, <aschauf@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov>, <sruppert@paloaltocounty.iowa.gov>, <dcattorney@dallascountyiowa.gov>, <thayes@louisacountyia.gov>, <rvokaty@howardcounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder1@poweshiekcounty.org>, <janderson@cityofiowafalls.com>, <info@cityofasbury.com>, <cityclerk@denisonia.com>, <bward@osceolaia.net>, <cityclerk@chariton.org>, <alent@indianolaia.gov>, <ellinorp@siouxcenter.org>, <cjeff@cityofjeffersoniowa.org>, <webmaster@fortdodgeiowa.org>, <williams@grimesiowa.gov>, <trudy@cityofcharlescity.org>, <cityclerk@orangecityiowa.com>, <gmclarmon@cityofdarinda.com>, <info@manchester-ia.org>, <bwilkerson@tiffin-iowa.org>, <dbell@algonaiowa.gov>, <info@cityofeldridgeia.org>, <cityclerk@independenceia.org>, <diane.voss@cityofames.org>, <msmith@cityofpella.com>, <cityhall@emarsiaowa.com>, <CityHall@cityofsergeantbluff.com>, <bjorth@centrallyon.org>, <sbisgard@linnmar.k12.ia.us>, <tluxford@george-littlerock.org>, <earleyr@live.siouxcityschools.com>, <ahawkins@dbqschools.org>, <jeff.maeder@columbuscsd.org>, <mash@sccioa.edu>, <public-records@uiowa.edu>, <admissions@iwcc.edu>, <stoaks@swccioa.edu>, <Helpdesk.Email@indianhills.edu>, <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>

Cc: Matt Brick <Matt.Brick@brickgentrylaw.com>

To those who have responded honorably and professionally, it has meant a lot to me. I am a retired United States Navy Veteran that has investigated the concealment of my children across three states since 2017 and the government bodies (City of Newton, IA/Jasper County, IA) who have produced evidence of concealing public records related to domestic abuse, misrepresenting facts, 1st Amendment right violations during the 2022 election year, misrepresenting a public record, falsely accusing a citizen requesting public records in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22 of criminal conduct during two separate Iowa Public Information Board cases, and inconsistent enforcement of Iowa Code Section 708.7. At the same time, these government bodies (City of Marshalltown, IA, City of Newton, IA, Jasper County, IA) have produced direct/indirect evidence of discrimination against a documented service-connected mental health disability related to their enforcement of this section of the Iowa Code.

I am not a lawyer; I am a Father and a United States Navy Sailor that will execute acts according to my faith, the US Code, and the Iowa Code. At the same time, I work to protect the reader of this electronic mail and their children from what my children have lost.

If all the State of Iowa has is false allegations of criminal conduct supported by zero evidence, \$9000 record fees to search for eight electronic mail addresses, and inconsistent law enforcement documented on concealed public records.

I will wait in prayer for the only Teacher and the only Judge to deliver the Truth as the Light reveals it.

MEMORANDUM

From: Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com

To: Iowa Government Bodies Consolidated

Subj: IOWA OPEN RECORDS REQUEST - UPDATE - CONSOLIDATED

2. Iowa Code Title I State Sovereignty and Management, Chapter 23 Public Access to Government Information (Iowa Public Information Board Act) - Section 23.7 - Filing of complaints with the board.

1. Public Record Request Guidance

(a.) Time Frame of Request

Government bodies included in this status request are requested to provide any available records stored and preserved by the government body in receipt of the original request that matches the provided criteria, including any electronic mail records that include any of the eight provided addresses in an electronic mail file stored and preserved by the government body.

(b.) Government body requests completion of a specific form

Iowa Code Section 22.4 states:

"2. In writing, by telephone, or by electronic means. The lawful custodian of the records shall post information for making such requests in a manner reasonably calculated to apprise the public of that information."

The Iowa Legislature has protected a citizen's right to submit a public records request in writing, by telephone (voice), or by electronic means in accordance with Iowa Code Section 22.4. This section of the Iowa Code does not support a government body having the ability to require a specific form to be completed, whether static or dynamic, because this requirement voids an Iowa citizen's right to submit their request for public records by telephone. All Iowa Government Bodies receiving this update have received the previous public records request electronically. No further submissions or proprietary forms will be completed.

(c.) Government Body Fee's IAW Iowa Code Section 22.3

The link below provides examples of over 40 Iowa Government Body Microsoft 365 organizational users (as confirmed by public DNS - Domain Name System - records) that completed either of the following:

- (a.) Completed a search of the government body mail server and reported no records matched the provided parameters in the original record request with zero fees.
- (b.) Completed a search of the government body mail server and reported the exact quantity of records located and a reasonable fee for designated personnel to verify the record status concerning Iowa Code Section 22.7.
- (c.) Completed a search of the government body mail server and provided all located public records with zero fees.

<https://airtable.com/appI0bqEiYK0lc1OC/shrkUYIPeHmCu5k50>

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208

"Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay."

Cipher Hunter

- Iowa Open Records Request - Attorney General (Department of Justice) - 463 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Public Safety - 468 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department for the Blind - 464 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Transportation - 469 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Human Services - 466 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Workforce Development - 470 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Office of the Treasurer of State - 476 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Economic Development Authority - 471 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - 465 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System - 473 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Public Health - 467 - CM-X2

Iowa Open Records Request - Attachment # of 1 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Wapello County IA - 545 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Van Buren County IA - 544 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Floyd County IA - 500 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County IA - 514 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Ida County IA - 511 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Humboldt County IA - 510 - CM-X2
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89K
-  **Record Request - 1686700007298.pdf**
94K

E: ** External Email Alert ** Fwd: The Form of the Flying Dutchman

message

Roberts Nicole <nroberts@dps.state.ia.us>
1: "Eckley, Erika" <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>
2: Waymire Patrick <waymire@dps.state.ia.us>, Callaway Chris <callaway@dps.state.ia.us>, Glas Laura <glas@dps.state.ia.us>

Fri, Jul 14, 2023 at 11:03 AM

Good Morning –

The below email was received. We have shared this information with OCIO and the Iowa State Patrol for their awareness.

Cyber related concerns can be directed to can be directed to OCIO also in the future:

<https://ocio.iowa.gov/>

Thanks,

Nikki

Nicole "Nikki" Roberts
Criminal Intelligence Analyst
Division of Intelligence and Fusion Center
Iowa Department of Public Safety
215 East 7th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0049
Local (515) 725-6316
Toll (800) 308-5983
Fax (515) 725-6320
Non-secure email: nroberts@dps.state.ia.us

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From: Eckley, Erika <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:03 PM
To: intinfo <intinfo@dps.state.ia.us>
Subject: ** External Email Alert ** Fwd: The Form of the Flying Dutchman

****External Email Alert**** This email is from outside DPS. DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you expected them. If unsure please forward to ITOC for review.

I am uncertain if this is the appropriate division or if there is a better place to reach out for some assistance, so please let me know if there is.

Michael Merritt communicates almost on a daily basis with IPiB in the fashion similar to below. (This is actually much shorter and lucid than most.) I have some cyber security concerns with his links and attachments. I especially worry about this database he says he is building which sounds like he is trying to be able to search all of the electronic records for all these entities or that it could create some security risks if he collects information about where and how records are stored online. I don't know if he is capable of collecting such information or if this is part of some of his mental health issues. He has said that he had extensive computer and networking experience in the Navy.

IPIB does not seem to have any authority or ability to address anything like this, so I am asking for any guidance or assistance you can provide on what limits we should put to ensure protection for government entities. It is possible that this is not anything that I need to worry about, if so, please let me know that as well.

Thank you for any assistance or direction you can provide.

Erika Eckley, Executive Director

Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB)

From: Michael Merritt <cipher.hunter@ciphphoenix.com>

Date: Mon, Jul 10, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Subject: The Form of the Flying Dutchman

To: Eckley, Erika <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>

Cc: Scott Nicholson <snicholson@jaspercoatty.org>, Doug Cupples <dcupples@jasperia.org>, Brandon Talsma <btalsma@jasperia.org>, John Halferty <jhalferty@jaspersheriff.org>, <robb@newtongov.org>, <chrisw@newtongov.org>, <michaelh@newtongov.org>, <evelyn@newtongov.org>, <melissad@newtongov.org>, <craig@newtongov.org>, <randye@newtongov.org>, <markh@newtongov.org>, <vickiw@newtongov.org>, <jcrc@iowa.gov>, <dciinfo@dps.state.ia.us>, <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>, <waynew@newtongov.org>, Malt Brick <Malt.Brick@brickgentrylaw.com>, <dave.brick@brickgentrylaw.com>, <jim.brick@brickgentrylaw.com>, <steve.brick@brickgentrylaw.com>, <stephanie.drey@brickgentrylaw.com>, <nolden.gentry@brickgentrylaw.com>, Liz Bennett <liz.bennett@legis.iowa.gov>, Tony Bisignano <tony.bisignano@legis.iowa.gov>, Nate Boulton <nate.boulton@legis.iowa.gov>, Mike Bousset <mike.bousset@legis.iowa.gov>, Waylon Brown <waylon.brown@legis.iowa.gov>, Claire Celsi <claire.celsi@legis.iowa.gov>, Mark Costello <mark.costello@legis.iowa.gov>, Chris Cournoyer <chris.cournoyer@legis.iowa.gov>, Dan Dawson <dan.dawson@legis.iowa.gov>, rocky.dewitt@legis.iowa.gov <rocky.dewitt@legis.iowa.gov>, Adrian Dickey <adrian.dickey@legis.iowa.gov>, Molly Donahue <molly.donahue@legis.iowa.gov>, William A. Dotzler Jr. <bill.dotzler@legis.iowa.gov>, Dawn Driscoll <dawn.driscoll@legis.iowa.gov>, Jeff Edler <jeff.edler@legis.iowa.gov>, Lynn Evans <lynn.evans@legis.iowa.gov>, Julian B. Garrett <julian.garrett@legis.iowa.gov>, Eric Giddens <eric.giddens@legis.iowa.gov>, Jesse Green <jesse.green@legis.iowa.gov>, Kerry Gruenhagen <kerry.gruenhagen@legis.iowa.gov>, Dennis Guth <dennis.guth@legis.iowa.gov>, Pam Jochum <pam.jochum@legis.iowa.gov>, Mike Klimesh <mike.klimesh@legis.iowa.gov>, Izaah Knox <izaah.knox@legis.iowa.gov>, <izaah.knox@legis.iowa.gov>, Carrie Koelker <carrie.koelker@legis.iowa.gov>, Tim Kraayenbrink <tim.kraayenbrink@legis.iowa.gov>, Mark S. Lofgren <mark.lofgren@legis.iowa.gov>, Charlie McClintock <charlie.mcdintock@legis.iowa.gov>, Janet Petersen <janet.petersen@legis.iowa.gov>, Herman C. Quirnbach <herman.quirnbach@legis.iowa.gov>, Jeff Reichman <jeff.reichman@legis.iowa.gov>, David D. Rowley <david.rowley@legis.iowa.gov>, Ken Rozenboom <ken.rozenboom@legis.iowa.gov>, Sandy Salmon <sandy.salmon@legis.iowa.gov>, Jason Schultz <jason.schultz@legis.iowa.gov>, Tom Shipley <tom.shipley@legis.iowa.gov>, Amy Sinclair <amy.sinclair@legis.iowa.gov>, Annette Sweeney <annette.sweeney@legis.iowa.gov>, Jeff Taylor <jeff.taylor@legis.iowa.gov>, Todd E. Taylor <todd.taylor@legis.iowa.gov>, Sarah Trone Garriott <sarah.trone.garriott@legis.iowa.gov>, Zach Wahls <zach.wahls@legis.iowa.gov>, scott.webster@legis.iowa.gov <scott.webster@legis.iowa.gov>, Janice Weiner <janice.weiner@legis.iowa.gov>, <janice.weiner@legis.iowa.gov>, chunter@registermedia.com <chunter@registermedia.com>, Cheri Lynn Westrich <cheri Lynn.westrich@legis.iowa.gov>, Jack Whitver <jack.whitver@legis.iowa.gov>, Cindy Winckler <cindy.winckler@legis.iowa.gov>, Brad Zaun <brad.zaun@legis.iowa.gov>, Dan Zumbach <dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>

Executive Director Eckley:

I will be donating a public database I built while being treated at the US Department of Veterans Affairs Des Moines, IA Medical Center for 6 weeks for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) trauma and symptoms that have caused me to isolate myself for the last 5 years of my life.

This database will provide the Iowa Public Information Board a dynamic lookup and verification of where the following government bodies store and preserve their digital public records.

-All Iowa State Agencies

-All Iowa Counties

-Top 100 Iowa Municipalities (Will expand in the future. At the same time, evidence indicates municipalities smaller than this generally utilize ISP provided infrastructure to save tax dollars. (Preliminary Conclusion))

-All Iowa Public School Districts

This database provides a dynamic lookup in the event a government body has changed providers for verification purposes.

I respectfully submit that when the state makes the decision to store its data on third-party commercial infrastructure or software the state has forfeited its ability to communicate a fee that evidence indicates is possibly only consistent with its internal desires. Given the evidence that the majority of all Iowa Government Bodies utilize either Microsoft 365 or Google Workspace to store and preserve its government body data. I respectfully submit it is the Iowa Public Information Board's responsibility to ensure that the citizens of Iowa are provided records Section 2 of Article 1 and Iowa Code Chapter 22 have determined they have a right to with a consistent fee in accordance with Iowa Code Section 22.3. An Iowa Government Body should never have the ability to dictate a price point that economically elevates a public record out of reach of the citizens they govern that Section 2 of Article 1 communicates maintain political power over the State of Iowa. Especially when they do not have physical custody of the cloud-based infrastructure storing the requested data. In the next year I will be producing a public declaration supported by evidence showing the existence of the invisible subsection of Iowa Code Section 22.7 utilized for public records evidence indicates the State of Iowa desires to conceal: The elevation of the fee allegedly in accordance with Iowa Code Section 22.3 above what the average citizen can afford for a public record that the state desires not to release. At the same time, the State covertly produces evidence of establishing a fee that is not ethically consistent with Iowa Code Section 22.3.

"In my day a Sys Admin was responsible for the hardware and the software on their network. Now all you have to do is login to someone else's infrastructure and make policy."

-Said an old Salty IT nobody has heard of

My work is for the purpose of protecting the rights of others that were denied to my children and I by what evidence indicates are unethical parties only invested in safeguarding their own lives, political power, and career paths.

Everything I accomplish I do while serving my Lord Jesus Christ to protect the citizens I have served since 1997. Everything I accomplish represents his glory. I am nothing more than a writer that provides evidence of the Truth with no name and no face that died in a dark town home in the City of Newton, IA in 2019 after realizing everyone that I turned to for help had thrown me away as I lost my children and my life within the country that I was returning home to after serving it for twenty years.

<https://cipherphoenix.com/2023/07/10/the-form-of-the-flying-dutchman/>

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer

Founder: cipherphoenix.com

Creative Writer/Musician

Information Warfare Specialist

Information Systems Manager

PO BOX 187

Newton, IA 50208

"Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay."

Cipher Hunter

From: AG Webteam [AG]
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32eb
d113-webteam>
To: IDR Bankruptcy
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=73ee8548cf0a4f22844a235eb778
7b26-idr bankrup>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: The Iowa Public Information Board and the Iowa Lottery Authority
Date: Mon Oct 02 2023 14:24:30 CDT
Attachments: Electronic Mail - Michael J Merritt - 23 SEP 2023.pdf

From: cipher.hunter@phoenixharbor.ai <cipher.hunter@phoenixharbor.ai>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 12:24 PM
To: todd.dorman@thegazette.com; editorial@thegazette.com; info@bleedingheartland.com;
iowaFOICouncil@gmail.com; ckauffman@iowacapitaldispatch.com; IPIB <ipib@iowa.gov>;
mstrawn@ialottery.com; tkriegel@poweshiekcosherriff.com; wsimmons@grinnellpd.com;
michaelh@newtongov.org; craigt@newtongov.org; melissad@newtongov.org;
markh@newtongov.org; randye@newtongov.org; vickiw@newtongov.org;
dagneu@grinnelliowa.gov; 1stWardcncl@grinnelliowa.gov; 3rdWardcncl@grinnelliowa.gov;
AtLargeCncl1@grinnelliowa.gov; 4thWardcncl@grinnelliowa.gov; 2ndWardcncl@grinnelliowa.
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Donahue@legis.iowa.gov>; Dotzler, Bill [LEGIS] <Bill.Dotzler@legis.iowa.gov>; Driscoll, Dawn
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iowa.gov>; Jochum, Pam [LEGIS] <Pam.Jochum@legis.iowa.gov>; Klimesh, Mike [LEGIS]
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Lofgren, Mark [LEGIS] <Mark.Lofgren@legis.iowa.gov>; McClintock, Charlie [LEGIS] <Charlie.
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Subject: The Iowa Public Information Board and the Iowa Lottery Authority

Reference (1.) Dorman, Todd. "Opinion: The Vexing Saga of 'vexatious Requesters' in Iowa." Log In, 29 Sept. 2023, www.thegazette.com/staff-columnists/the-vexing-saga-of-vexatious-requesters-in-iowa/ <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thegazette.com%2Fstaff-columnists%2Fthe-vexing-saga-of-vexatious-requesters-in-iowa%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cb16af53c7ea941d7036508dbc36c78d8%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638318644975317435%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xY4uihY5CBITHrrSvfq8txsecTJJWOj%2FgTrbJXG4SNE%3D&reserved=0> .

Article points of interest:

"If you're vexatious, requesting tons of records to annoy or harass government employees, you may find yourself on the wrong side of the law. The Iowa Public Information Board is considering legislation targeting "vexatious requesters," taking away their ability to seek public records. And you have Michael J. Merritt of Newton to thank."

"Kauffman reports that Merritt also sent a letter to Jasper County officials promising to send requests quarterly "to all Iowa state, county, public school districts, public universities and the top 100 municipal government bodies." IPIB Executive Director Erika Eckley said Merritt made "1000s of record requests to government entities."

<https://phoenixharbor.id> <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fphoenixharbor.id%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cb16af53c7ea941d7036508dbc36c78d8%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638318644975473408%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LdpJSGO%2F%2BXyoMlfinFO0INL6c053UKf9jtahMzEhURQ%3D&reserved=0>

See: Iowa Rules of the Court Chapter 32:8.4(c.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/ICRC/32.pdf>>

"Merritt's prolific filings prompted the Public Information Board to draft a legislative proposal allowing local governments to request relief from a vexatious requester. Government officials wouldn't have to fulfill records requests filed by a vexing individual for a year."

"Nobody wants public employees to be harassed. But the real, vexing issue is where do you draw the line between vexatious and simply being persistent. Will local watchdogs or journalists digging for records shining a light, potentially unflattering, on government decisions be dubbed vexatious?"

Title XVI – CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE – Iowa Code Chapter 708 – ASSAULT – Iowa Code Section 708.7 – Harassment <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.7.pdf>>

Vexatious is nothing more than a word deployed by those who have zero evidence supporting a violation of Iowa Code Section 708.7. At the same time, they produce evidence of desiring the ability to restrict access to rights, liberties, and public accommodations to suit their agenda while they produce evidence of disregarding citizen rights documented by our constitution.

Law Enforcement Officer: "So you are saying he assaulted you?"

IPIB: "No, I am saying A salt is peppering us with record requests."

Law Enforcement Officer: "Sergeant Pepper assaulted who?"

IPIB: "This sea salt is being vexatious and I want his access to rights, liberties, and public accommodations halted, Here is a bill can we keep this out of the Iowa Courts"

Law Enforcement Officer: "If he is on vacation how did he assault you?"

IPIB: "Just forget it."

Legal Disclaimer: The above narrative is a comedic caricature of the IPIB's genius deployment of a synonym of a word the Iowa Legislature has already defined in our state's criminal code.

Mr. Dorman:

What bothered me the most regarding your article was what seemed to be evidence of a desire to persecute and build a witch hunt of hysteria among your readers against a private citizen (And you have Michael J. Merritt of Newton to thank.) requesting public record requests that were submitted in accordance with Iowa Code Section 22.4(2.). At the same time, the evidence shows the requester lost everything after retiring honorably after serving in the United States Navy for twenty years. I maintained a Top Secret/SCI Clearance. At the same time, I was a Cryptologist (CTO) during my deployment, the exact moments when 9/11 occurred, and an Information Systems Technician for the last 11 years of my career.

At the same time, I find the evidence of a need to explain myself and my lawful requests for public records to a state that bans books that evidence indicates is attempting to criminalize my record requests and service connected mental health disabilities as possibly revealing of the State manifesting these public attacks. At the same time, the evidence indicates a local journalist is attempting to direct Iowa's wrath at the citizen the IPIB is producing evidence of retaliating against while this journalist produces evidence of knowing nothing about the situation or the requester evidence indicates he is persecuting.

The Iowa Code defines harassment as a violation of Iowa Code Section 708.7. My only question is whether it is your intention to proliferate communications/insinuations to your readers that my historical behavior violates Iowa Code Section 708.7. I agree with your assessment of Mr. Kaufman's article; it was well written, and he was responsible for only quoting the words of others and not providing additional speculation or possible assertions against a private citizen regarding criminal acts for which he has never been charged or arrested. At the same time, the evidence suggests that you appear to be attempting to stir up an angry mob against a citizen trying to access public records in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22 from a state that manifests evidence of the most significant degree of public record concealment I never thought was possible. If you desire to be a part of this witch hunt of what evidence indicates is false misrepresented hysteria the Iowa Public Information Board has manifested against me, ultimately, it doesn't concern me. This behavior's only provides evidence of the form of the periodical that publishes your articles.

The story of my life, since I retired, has been one aspect of victimization after another related to domestic abuse, alleged interstate harassment, evidence of government body retaliation and harassment consistent with the language of Iowa Code Section 708.7 during evidence of public record concealment, and child concealment in the States of California, Iowa, and Montana from court-ordered appearances my children were ordered to appear regarding alleged sexual abuse that was utilized to conceal them that three government agencies including the US Navy determined there was zero evidence support these allegations. At the same time, my ex-wife produced evidence of violating numerous court orders and the laws of two states while concealing my children.

What was my reasoning for as you articulated "peppering" of public records to Iowa school districts? It provided evidence that Reiman Gardens Education Director Sara Merritt, whom public records across central Iowa document coordinates educational events and field trips for Iowa school children. At the same time, she was involved in this child concealment as documented by educational records stored at Ames, IA Community School District. At the same time, she possessed zero court documents authorizing this custody. Evidence in the form of a sign affidavit and educational records show she assisted in the concealment of my children from court-ordered appearances at San Diego, East County Superior Court while she was involved in false allegations of sexual abuse perpetuated by parties involved in the violation of multiple court-orders while profiting off of elevated custody and child support. I have been communicating these facts supported by evidence for nearly two years. At the same time, the evidence indicates Iowa State University and every government agency and elected and appointed official who has received electronic mail documenting these events and included public sentiments and concerns, is not concerned with a citizen that was involved in child concealment related to false allegations of sexual abuse coordinating field trips for other Iowa parents children regarding a public university that receives several 100 million in federal funding annually.

One common factor agreed upon in the Iowa Press in recent days: Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Eckley's legislation draft was motivated by my public record requests.

At the same time, evidence shows I communicated to the Executive Director my intention (13 JUL 2023-retaliation) and current work on a complaint against her with the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Review Board regarding enormous levels of evidence regarding misrepresentation of public records, facts, and other variables while allegedly assisting Jasper County, IA and the City of Newton, IA with concealing public records that I have been requesting for over a year. How do I define the misrepresentation of public records by an IPIB Executive Director: By the evidence that shows she took electronic mail public records I received from Jasper County, IA, in the Spring of 2022 that I provided the IPIB that she reported to the IPIB that the records were provided to the IPIB by Jasper County, IA in response to a complaint Executive Director Eckley dismissed in July 2023. I will include you in an electronic mail I am preparing to the Iowa Department of Public Safety and the Office of the Chief Information Officer for the State of Iowa regarding the database I have built to help lowans from being exploited by excessive fees that evidence indicates are inconsistent with Iowa Code Section 22.3. I have received quotes from government bodies in the range of \$0 to exceeding \$50,000 regarding identical requests for electronic mail records. This motivated me to build a database that will help lowans know which third-party commercial information systems provider stores and preserves the records they are attempting to receive. Shockingly, after I emailed Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Eckley with a desire to volunteer and help the IPIB with this data to help serve others as I did for twenty years, the evidence indicates as reported by the Iowa Press that Executive Director Eckley instead of responding and asking questions for clarification instead began reaching out to various Iowa government agencies and spreading false hysteria not supported by evidence that I could be a cyber security threat. Sadly, during my twenty years in the United States Navy (trained Network Security Vulnerability Technician and Cryptologic Network Administrator), terrorists and cyber security threats never contacted us and offered to volunteer and help others before hacking the United States or providing others assistance with doing so, at least not while I was on watch.

The below link provides my database that will assist lowans with knowing where government body public records citizens are pursuing are stored and preserved. Please do not share this database with anyone because it contains highly classified information from Wikipedia under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcreativecommons.org%2Flicenses%2Fby-sa%2F4.0%2Fdeed.en&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cb16af53c7ea941d7036508dbc36c78d8%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638318644975473408%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=IU9bQGrWyPogUsj7qSMDnhBWoSalpIRfwehIrPPz7hk%3D&reserved=0>> and numerous public World Wide Web uniform resource locators (URL) links (Links requiring the same level of special handling as yahoo.com).

<https://phoenixharbor.io/cm-x2-gov-cloud/> <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fphoenixharbor.io%2Fcm-x2-gov-cloud%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cb16af53c7ea941d7036508dbc36c78d8%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638318644975473408%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DUNOEW%7C>>

2BGSXx1WjXQdeX5oEJ2wTYeWyXBVgwxmZEgDLc%3D&reserved=0>

Now, back to the question everyone has been wondering: Why have I sent (allegedly) thousands of public record requests (<https://phoenixharbor.id> < [\)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fphoenixharbor.id%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cb16af53c7ea941d7036508dbc36c78d8%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638318644975473408%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LdpJSGO%2F%2BXyoMlfinFO0INL6c053UKf9jtahMzEhURQ%3D&reserved=0>)? After witnessing numerous data points of evidence supporting my conclusion that the Iowa Public Information Board is an incompetent rubber stamp of wasted tax dollars with no desire to verify anything government body lawyers communicate to them that the IPIB documents on its dismissals. At the same time, these governments bodies allegedly attempt to withhold public records unlawfully from the citizens requesting them. I sent an identical record request to all Iowa counties and the top 100 Iowa municipalities. These requests provided data regarding the average fee for a search for electronic mail public records stored and preserved on either Microsoft 365 Enterprise or Google Workspace Enterprise across the State of Iowa. To accomplish this research I needed to be able to support a logical conclusion based on the evidence of the average fee that was being requested from Iowa governments bodies for a search for public records with identical parameters. To achieve this I collected publicly available data establishing where the public records were stored, by Iowa government bodies allegedly producing these enormous fees that evidence indicates were not consistent with Iowa Code Section 22.3. Peasant Translation: I became tired and annoyed with citizens in nice clothing waving a magic wand over facts that evidence indicates they failed to verify and public records they allegedly chose to misrepresent in multiple IPIB dismissals. This led me to the conclusion that the only way to fix this problem was through the collection of statewide data that would support a conclusion that would help me and others understand the evidence showing what I had experienced within Jasper County, IA. (information warfare - I was a US Navy Enlisted Information Warfare Specialist <<a href=)

For instance let me walk you through a fictional example that manifests evidence of the Iowa Public Information Board's complaint process and attention to detail in its Dismissals as I have witnessed it as supported by the evidence.

Citizen: I am requesting an official picture of the droids Bob the Alien gave the Mayor at the City Hall.

Government Body: No Response.

Citizen: Files a complaint with the Iowa Public Information Board regarding no response to a record request for an official picture of droids Bob the Alien gave the Mayor of the Respondent.

IPIB - Government Body - Why have you not provided the Complainant copies of the official picture's of the droids you received from Bob the Alien?

Government Body - IPIB: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihyjXd2C-E8&t=56s> <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DihyjXd2C-E8%26t%3D56s&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cb16af53c7ea941d7036508dbc36c78d8%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638318644975473408%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVC16Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wKN94pGWRJRegyEP7geyeA2IKgQTZY8LMUk0aU0IxCU%3D&reserved=0>>

IPIB - Citizen: The government body doesn't have the droids the Complainant is looking for. The government body can go about its business. Case Dismissed.

Your questions regarding who I am and my motivations will be answered in the links I have provided and the attached electronic mail. If I am guilty of anything, it is possibly dealing with immense pain with horrible jokes and perhaps possessing a large quantity of law-abiding sea salt regarding addressing what the evidence indicates is unethical conduct that evidence suggests will damage the rights, liberties, and access to public accommodations of those I served for twenty years of my life.

<https://phoenixharbor.ai/2023/09/29/phoenixid-4348-cm-p2-2023-1-2023-09-29t044309-000z/> <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fphoenixharbor.ai%2F2023%2F09%2F29%2Fphoenixid-4348-cm-p2-2023-1-2023-09-29t044309-000z%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cb16af53c7ea941d7036508dbc36c78d8%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638318644975473408%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVC16Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=utBBMuHY9zDCV%2FGoNj596kVgAyhjyBzmlrmOYzOY3Pk%3D&reserved=0>>

The above-linked correspondence includes my complaint with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission against the Iowa Public Information Board.

At the very least I think it is very humorous that the State of Iowa is considering legislation against alleged vexatious record requesters when the leading candidate for President in the State of Iowa is possibly looking at a gag order based upon evidence of improper public communications.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2023/09/28/milley-taking-precautions-trump->

post-accusations/70989504007/ <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.usatoday.com%2Fstory%2Fnews%2Fpolitics%2F2023%2F09%2F28%2Fmilley-taking-precautions-trump-post-accusations%2F70989504007%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cb16af53c7ea941d7036508dbc36c78d8%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638318644975473408%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vbTvOKW8bwRu97ZAtaav%2B7uHfXONNrzaVZZN0%2FLy8JE%3D&reserved=0>

I want to publicly thank the Grinnell, IA, Police Department. They are the only law enforcement department I have interacted with that has shown me professionalism and compassion while helping me to not feel like I have nothing and no one left. (Jasper County, IA Sheriff Halferty as well, but evidence indicates he works within a tyrannical entity that restricts the honorable person I know and believes he is.)

Grinnell, IA Law Enforcement Officer "Ozzie" - "You can stop by anytime if you need someone to talk to or help. I may need to take care of a call, but when I get back, I am here to help."

(paraphrased from memory)

I have stopped by to drop off paperwork and to have a conversation with good people at the Grinnell, IA Police Department and their kindness has meant a lot to me.

Why are suicide rates so high among Veterans? I don't know; I respectfully request the State of Iowa to provide their thoughts on this issue. That is of course as long as they are not documented on public records the State of Iowa desires to conceal as supported by the evidence.

I am going to continue sending hundreds of record requests in accordance with the rights I defended for twenty years that are articulated in Iowa Code Section 22.4(2.), and I am going to show the Iowa Legislature what is wrong with our public records process as supported by the evidence in accordance with our laws. At the same time, I protect those I have defended for twenty years. Suppose the State of Iowa desires to criminalize me or label me a vexatious public records requester. These possible future acts will only inspire and motivate me to take advantage of recent Iowa Rules of the Court changes stipulating that any citizen can take the bar exam and practice the law in Iowa. I do not require six years of college to become a liar. I will take a test if necessary to be the hero to someone else, my children, and I did not have.

This world does not define who or what we are; only hope and faith in Jesus Christ will help us

change and evolve this world to something better so that we can leave this world in a form better for the next generation than the one we all inherited.

What fuels my passion is knowing that helping others feel happiness and smile is the only thing that numbs the pain I feel inside.

The world has fallen. We can all look around and see that something is not right. Only moral influence, ethical leadership, and those capable of fearlessly serving the Truth and the Light while sacrificing themselves will conquer evil. Tyranny manifests and evolves in a sea of politicians that are only invested in their own careers, agendas, or that of their party's.

The evidence supports the conclusion that the State of Iowa is a jurisdiction where you can buy 1000's of lottery tickets without incident (Iowa Lottery Authority), but if you submit hundreds of public record requests you are criminalized while the State works to restrain a citizens access to liberties, rights, and access to due process while avoiding the requirements of Section 9 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa. Why? Because the consolidation of information produces knowledge and knowledge produces power (See: Section 2 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa) and awareness that threatens the power of evil that seeks to hide in darkness (See: Guttenberg Printing Press/Protestant Reformation Period)

Respectfully,

Cipher Hunter

Michael J. Merritt (IT1/USN Retired) as documented by birth record stored and preserved by Marshall County, IA and service records stored and preserved by the United States Department of Defense.

<https://videos.files.wordpress.com/9Y10cYJo/bc-carrillo-1853-hrs.mp4> <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvideos.files.wordpress.com%2F9Y10cYJo%2Fbc-carrillo-1853-hrs.mp4&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cb16af53c7ea941d7036508dbc36c78d8%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638318644975473408%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nu1DuX2QW4DGIAS0WaZXZmyAZJjTTF2Z9li6cxaTzYM%3D&reserved=0>>

It is possible most people would fear sending this public record to the media. At the same time shame or embarrassment are paradigms that are only manifested by those that feel or desire a connection to a world they seek to belong.

I requested the audio dispatch of the hyperventilating panic attack documented on the dispatch call producing this call for service with the Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office. Evidence indicates Sheriff Kriegel, his Deputies, and numerous county employees ignored these public record requests until they were able to report it was no longer available.

The Criminalization of an Alleged Vexatious Public Records Requester in a State the Evidence Indicates Supports an Alleged Vexatious Former President

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xxgRUyzgs0&list=RDMMmFkRvF8MeYM&index=0> <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D7xxgRUyzgs0%26list%3DRDMMmFkRvF8MeYM%26index&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cb16af53c7ea941d7036508dbc36c78d8%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638318644975473408%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ii5pbAoIR3xDpSuDyR3Q6QqQBUU1pvsvrCkWrds6fEDY%3D&reserved=0>>

Owner: AG Webteam [AG] </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32ebd113-webteam>
Filename: Electronic Mail - Michael J Merritt - 23 SEP 2023.pdf
Last Modified: Mon Oct 02 14:24:30 CDT 2023

The Form of the Law Abiding Vexatious Patriot and the Lawful Production of Distress within the Evil that Manifests in the Darkness Behind the Limestone of the Iowa Court

From cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com <cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com>

To info@bleedingheartland.com, IowaFOICouncil@gmail.com, ckauffman@iowacapitaldispatch.com

Date Saturday, September 23rd, 2023 at 1:20 AM

My name is Michael Merritt; I served honorably in the United States Navy from 1997 to 2017. I retired from the United States Navy in July 2017. Upon moving back to Iowa, I have dealt with a level of public corruption, including multiple departments of Iowa Law Enforcement that evidence shows failed to protect my children's rights in accordance with Iowa Code Section 598.1. At the same time, my children were concealed from court-ordered appearances in the State of California by an Iowa State University Education Director who had zero court documents from the court with jurisdiction over my children authorizing this custody or communicating that [Sara Merritt](#) was a party in my family court case. Approximately 1000 pages of public records show coordinates filed trips for Iowa Public School Children across central Iowa.

I spent my entire career as a cryptologist, information systems technician, electronic key management systems manager and instructor, network security vulnerability technician, cryptologic network administrator, information warfare specialist, etc. I spent my entire career managing the physical and electronic keys that protect the lives of fellow American military service members in tactical environments with secure encrypted communications.

The problem with modern public record storage and preservation is that public records are now predominantly stored and preserved on information systems that are out of reach. I have spent the last several months developing a statewide database of publicly available domain name system (DNS) records that reveal which commercial information systems providers the State of Iowa utilizes to store and preserve its public records.

I have experienced evidence of a paradigm that when a government body desires not to release a requested public record or perform the search, they are required to perform in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22 some either disregard the request and then attempt to falsely accuse the requester of violating Iowa Code Section 708.7 (Harassment) during subsequent requests, or some Iowa government bodies communicate a fee inconsistent with Iowa Code Section 22.3. The strategy I developed to expose evidence of this exploitation of the people of Iowa was manifested by sending public record requests requesting a search for 8 identical electronic mail addresses from all 100 Iowa Counties, the top 100 Iowa municipalities (encompassing 70% of the state's population). At the same time, I had already collected this data regarding Iowa Public School Districts that produced the public records I have regarding Sara Merritt coordinating Iowa Public School field trips. The purpose of this research was to produce a test bed of data that shows across the state of Iowa an average price point in accordance with Iowa Code Section 22.3 that Iowa government bodies should be able to perform the requested search in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22. Given the evidence that Iowa Government bodies predominately store and preserve their public records on either commercial information systems hosted and managed by Microsoft or Google, there should not be the current anomaly that exists regarding communicated fees in the range of zero fees being assessed up to \$10,000 as shown by the evidence I have collected in my database. If one Iowa government body utilizing Microsoft 365 provides a completed search at zero fees another Iowa Government body of consistent size should be able to perform the same search at an approximate identical price. At the very least there should not be condition that currently exists with differences of over \$1000 in communicated fees assessed by Iowa government bodies performing the same search.

Ultimately, the evidence shows the City of Newton, IA, falsely accused me of violating Iowa Code Section 708.7, and Jasper County, IA, falsely accused me of violating Iowa Code Section 708.11. Both government bodies acknowledging these allegations communicated against me during record requests and related Iowa Public Information Board complaints were false and had zero merit.

The historical record will show that I spent over one year seeking public records documenting how the State of Iowa handled criminal incidents related to domestic abuse, child concealment, and interstate sexual-based harassment. At

the same time, segments of the country that I served produced evidence of abandoning my children in an environment of people who desired to conceal them, where my daughter was abandoned in a state of homelessness. At the same time, while pursuing these public records, my daughter communicated that she was drugged, sexually assaulted, and currently involved in a criminal, Flathead County, MT, case as a victim of sexual assault. I am now trying to repair the damage caused by multiple years of parental alienation because everyone that I asked for help completely disregarded these requests. Ultimately manifesting the current state of public record concealment that I now deal with related to being blocked on social media during the 2022 election year and other acts that those in power executed against me while attempting to protect their political power, the flow of information that they desired to oppress that our constitutions indicate were not lawful or constitutional.

The bottom line is that my children's lives were destroyed by a state, including many leaders who have produced evidence of being above the law. At the same time, they conceal public records that show they possibly failed to enforce the law or halted access to public accommodations while attempting to maintain control of this situation while failing to provide the citizen requesting these records due process regarding the allegations they utilized to halt access to rights, liberties, and public accommodations I defended for twenty years of my life.

I will conclude this correspondence because, as it is an introductory piece of correspondence, I wanted to reach out to you all and let you know who I am.

I am a Veteran who has studied the law in three states and will not allow this paradigm to damage the lives of another parent-child relationship. I have spent the last several years buried in immense depression, and what keeps me going is my desire to be a form of superhero that protects others from the pain that I feel inside.

I am working on a complaint that I will file with the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Review Board against Executive Director Eckley. The City of Newton, IA Attorney Matthew Brick, Jasper County, IA Attorney Scott Nicholson with numerous data points of supporting evidence showing these licensed lawyers failed to live up to the requirements they are expected to manifest as shown in the Iowa Rules of the Court Chapter 32.

It is my objective to provide evidence of the necessity of the reestablishment of Iowa Code Section 22.6, and the evidence that I believe and respectfully submit I believe shows is the failed state of the Iowa Public Information Board. Given the evidence of the repeal of Iowa Code Section 22.6 and the evidence of the state of the Iowa Public Information Board that is manifested by Iowa Code Chapter 23. It would seem that if the paradigm was reversed traffic violations would be repealed and Iowa Law Enforcement officers would be required to file a complaint with the Iowa Driving Board and enter into a convoluted process that in my experience rarely produces results that are consistent with the Spirit of Iowa Code Chapter 22.

It was my honor to serve you all, and the work that I do is my intention to continue that service as I work to protect the children of the future from what my children have lost. If I do not respond for a few days it is because I am currently building a database encompassing around 70,000 individual public record data points I have collected either manually or electronically across the state of Iowa at the same time executing requests in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code Section 22.4(2.).

Everyone take care and have a good weekend.

<https://phoenixharbor.net/2023/04/16/the-form-of-the-fascist-star/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dv45FxbXb_0

<https://phoenixharbor.net/2023/06/16/government-information-dominance/>

<https://phoenixharbor.net/2023/03/22/the-moral-influence-of-true-leadership/>

<https://phoenixharbor.net/2021/10/17/the-darkness-behind-the-pillars-of-justice/>

Cipher Hunter

Legal Name as documented on birth records stored and preserved by Marshalltown, Iowa.

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer

Founder: phoenixharbor.com

Creative Writer/Musician

Information Warfare Specialist

Information Systems Manager

PO BOX 187

Newton, IA 50208

"Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay."

Cipher Hunter

From: AG Webteam [AG]
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32eb
d113-webteam>
To: IDRBankruptcy [IDR]
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=28c9f83f3a3144399239484aa2c4
17b8-idrbankrupt>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: Re: The Form of the Standing Sailor and the Iowa Licensed Lawyers
Passed Out Under the State Bar
Date: Fri Jan 17 2025 11:56:14 CST
Attachments: merritt.pdf

From: pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 11:47 AM
To: Bayens, Stephan <bayens@dps.state.ia.us>
Cc: ipib@iowa.gov; Aspercoatty, J <general@jaspercoatty.org>; susan.christensen@iowacourts.gov; AG Webteam [AG] <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>; Recorder@jasperia.org; reaton@jasperia.org; btalsma@jasperia.org; dcupples@jasperia.org; evelyng@newtongov.org; info@iowacapitaldispatch.com; chunter@registermedia.com; melissad@newtongov.org; stacys@newtongov.org; stevem@newtongov.org; joelm@newtongov.org; mtupper@marshalltown-ia.gov; icrc@iowa.gov; Records [IGOV] <Records@governor.iowa.gov>; randye@newtongov.org; markh@newtongov.org; wsimmons@grinnelliowa.gov
Subject: Fwd: Re: The Form of the Standing Sailor and the Iowa Licensed Lawyers Passed Out Under the State Bar

Commissioner Bayens:

I am respectfully requesting all Iowa Department of Public Safety records related to the attached electronic mail that evidence indicates you have been concealing since they were originally requested in January 2024. I am respectfully requesting all records related to Michael James Merritt DOB: 12/25/1978, DL: Look it Up.

Bayens how would you feel if you served something honorably for twenty years and then when you returned home and asked for help that entity produced evidence of throwing your life and your family in a ditch and criminalizing your lawful efforts to restore it.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt

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

From: "Eckley, Erika" <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>

To: "pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net"
<pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net>
Date: 11/15/2024 4:04 PM CST
Subject: Re: The Form of the Standing Sailor and the Iowa Licensed Lawyers Passed
Out Under the State Bar

emails you requested via phone on 11/13

Erika Eckley, Executive Director
Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB)

On Tue, Nov 12, 2024 at 2:23PM pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:
pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.
net> <pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> > wrote:
State of Iowa Judicial Branch:

I am requesting an electronic mail address to forward over 40 proposed exhibits supporting Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Review Board complaints against Matthew Brick and James Brick of Brick Gentry P.C regarding their alleged unethical acts designed to conceal and misrepresent the alleged unethical acts of their client the City of Newton, IA. At the same time, the evidence supports that they deployed acts including false allegations of criminal conduct, restriction of rights and liberties during the 2022 election year without due process, misrepresentation of facts on court documents, and other unethical acts that evidence indicates violated the Iowa Rules of the Court Chapter 32 while producing documented damage to the mental health and service-connected disabilities of an honorably retired United States Navy Veteran (US Department of Veterans Affairs documented elevation of service-connected mental health disabilities from 50% to 70% during the Summer of 2023).

<https://stream.phoenixharbor.net/w/tbvVbVzFYcrJBrTFTUDqBc?start=24m17s>
<<https://stream.phoenixharbor.net/w/tbvVbVzFYcrJBrTFTUDqBc?start=24m17s>>

Complaints are pending regarding the following individuals believed to be licensed by the Iowa Court:

James Brick
Matthew Brick
Scott Nicholson
Julie Pottorff
Erika Eckley

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt

On 11/10/2024 9:25 PM CST pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:
pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.
net> <pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> > wrote:

Jasper County, IA, Attorney Scott Nicholson

I am respectfully requesting the following Jasper County, IA, Facebook

Block Lists in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22 and IPIB Case 22FC:0091. At the same time, the evidence shows you misrepresented on 09 NOV 2022 to the IPIB that you already provided the below social media block list public records.

Jasper County, IA
Jasper County, IA Sheriff
Brandon Talsma Jasper County, IA Supervisor
Doug Cupples, Jasper County, IA Supervisor
Jasper County, IA Recorder's Office
Jasper County, IA Health Department

All alleged vexatious or "abusive" public records requests reported during the November 2023 Jasper County, IA Supervisors' public meeting and Newton Daily News Article: <https://www.newtondailynews.com/news/local/2023/11/14/jasper-county-changes-open-records-policy-to-thwart-abusive-requests/> <<https://www.newtondailynews.com/news/local/2023/11/14/jasper-county-changes-open-records-policy-to-thwart-abusive-requests/>>

You can either provide these social media block lists as you indicated you already had on 09 NOV 2022 during IPIB case 22FC:0091 and deal with an Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Review Board Complaint, or you can help me with dismantling both your career's integrity and every member of the Iowa Public Information Board during a future IPIB public meeting if it becomes necessary in accordance with Iowa Code Sections 22.8(4.) (d.) and 23.7.

I would also like to bring the following to your attention regarding the evidence of your offices historical conduct, multiple false allegations of criminal conduct against me, and other alleged misconduct as it possibly relates to documented damages to my mental health that occurred from July 2017 - July 2023 and possible relevance with Iowa Code Sections 708.1(2.)(b.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.1.pdf>> , 708.2(2.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.2.pdf>> , Iowa Code Section 802.3 <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/802.3.pdf>> , and the Iowa Rules of the Court Chapters 32:4.1(a.), 32:4.4 (a.), 32:8.4(a.), 32:8.4(b.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/ICRC/32.pdf>> (See: Iowa Code Section 708.7(1.)(a.) (4.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.7.pdf>> and 718.6) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/718.6.pdf>> , 32:8.4(c.), 32:8.4(d.), 32:8.4(e.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/ICRC/32.pdf>> (See: IPIB Case 22FC:0091 <<https://ipib.iowa.gov/22fc0091-michael-merrittjasper-county-dismissal-order>>)

It is my belief that most reasonable minded individuals even one with mental health disabilities would exist in a state of fear, panic, intimidation, or annoyance regarding possible unlawful physical contact, restraint, or assault during an unlawful arrest based upon the evidence of the false allegations of criminal conduct (708.7 <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.7.pdf>> /708.11 <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.11.pdf>>) that evidence shows have originated from your office against me during numerous public records requests that evidence shows you ignored, disregarded, or failed to properly respond. At the same time, considering the evidence of your offices involvement in the evidence supporting Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Eckley's state-wide vexatious lie in September 2023 while she sought expanded unconstitutional political power that attempted to void our constitutional requirement regarding due process for all citizens. I have evidence connecting this proposed legislation to your office.

Scott are you going to sue me for slander (See: City of Grinnell, IA 14

APR 2023 public record - Captain Johnson Report), make an arrest, or are you simply going to keep calling the Jasper County, IA Sheriff and tell him I am harassing your office every time I provide your office evidence of its misconduct. I am sitting here at McDonald's on the south side of Marshalltown, IA <https://www.google.com/maps/place/McDonald's/@42.005659,-92.9142729,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x87efa50e83dda11d:0xe3835c9f9a62c069!8m2!3d42.005655!4d-92.911698!16s%2Fg%2F1ffc2l0j?entry=ttu&g_ep=EgoyMDI0MTEwNi4wIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D> , with a half full cup of Dr. Pepper wondering if you are ever going to show up and get me a refill.

My depression and panic take me to a place darker than any night I have served on the Atlantic. That is when I turn to my faith and stand up to the unethical in accordance with our laws and direct them to can it.

https://youtu.be/Mwq01_cwrXM?si=pHdbNsqliSkCzJZxF <https://youtu.be/Mwq01_cwrXM?si=pHdbNsqliSkCzJZxF>

Why was I Honorably Retired at 20 years...It's complicated. :)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql2oHbGsG1Y> <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql2oHbGsG1Y>>

It was my extreme honor to serve you all.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt

On 11/10/2024 7:39 PM CST pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <<mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net>> pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <<mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net>> <pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> <pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> <<mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net>> > wrote:

Randy/Mark,

I respect you both as leaders, but I am telling you this as my friend. I halted my public records work because I have become consumed in paralyzing pain and panic. I contacted the Marshalltown Police Department last night and they helped me. I am going to be going to the VA for 6 weeks for inpatient treatment on Wednesday. I want to thank you for your friendship.

I have nothing left, but I am going to continue my public records work, because it is when the world is the darkest the Light within our souls must shine the brightest.

https://youtu.be/yokGq0yKdUc?si=ym6SWov9qv_HBtUt <https://youtu.be/yokGq0yKdUc?si=ym6SWov9qv_HBtUt>

All proposed exhibits against the City of Newton, IA will be submitted to the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Review Board against Matthew Brick. In light of what I have lost recently I had no desire to play hide and seek with a licensed lawher and a Chief of Police in court. At the same time, that court case only sought glorfy for myself when I seek to only glorify my Lord Jesus Christ.

heavily damaged. VA Nurse: Doc, the Cipher Hunter Model 101 is in the ward

programmed him not to. VA Doc: Is that the one that tells horrible jokes even though we

VA Nurse: Uhhh

that walked into the bar, He said, Im lookin for the guy that shot my Pa.

here. He'll be alright. VA Doc: Give him a 2 Liter of Pepsi, and get him the hell out of

Your friend and humble public servant,

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt

Owner: AG Webteam [AG] </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32ebd113-webteam>
Filename: merritt.pdf
Last Modified: Fri Jan 17 11:56:14 CST 2025

wd: Consolidated Update

message

Tue, Aug 8, 2023 at 3:51 F

ckley, Erika <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>
r: SecurityAwareness@iowa.gov

I am not certain if this is anything that you all can address or need to address, but I have ongoing concerns regarding the activity from Mr. Merritt. I sent some information to public safety, but they suggested I contact OCIO. Mr. Merritt is making 1000s of records requests to government entities. He has a right to do that. The concern I have is that he has stated that he wants to develop a database of the government email systems etc. I know he is prolific in his postings online, and I am not sure how much information he has gathered or what he has posted that could potentially create risks and vulnerabilities to government entities. He continues to tout his military training in data security, so I am certain he is able to pull quite a bit of information from his requests.

I have concerns about the scope of what is being collected and potential harm that could be done if there is a database that shares information that could be useful to others to harm these government systems if bad actors were able to use the information to insert malware or ransomware.

If there is no concern, then please let me know. If there is concern, then any recommendations you have to assist in educating entities about how to respond to requests for emails and data information or what to retain for security would be much appreciated.

Thank you for your time.

Erika Eckley, Executive Director
Iowa Public Information Board (PIB)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael J. Merritt** <cipherus.x1@cipherphoenix.com>
Date: Tue, Aug 1, 2023 at 10:29 AM
Subject: Consolidated Update

To: <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>, <bayens@dps.state.ia.us>, <emily.wharton@blind.state.ia.us>, <scott.marler@dot.iowa.gov>, <kgarcia@dhs.state.ia.us>, <beth.townsend@iwd.iowa.gov>, <treasurer@tos.iowa.gov>, <debi.durham@iowaeda.com>, <michael.naig@iowaagriculture.gov>, <greg.samorajski@pers.org>, <paul.pate@sos.iowa.gov>, <kmathis@allamakeecounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@adamscounty.iowa.gov>, <lkent@wapellocounty.org>, <crane@vanburencounty.iowa.gov>, <aassink@floydcoia.org>, <general@jaspercoatty.org>, <jphillips@idacountyia.us>, <damundson@humboldtcountyia.org>, <ggreer@shco.org>, <recorder@jonescountyia.gov>, <k.kallas@pottcounty-ia.gov>, <karol.kennedy@dubuquecountyia.gov>, <tberry@co.fremont.ia.us>, <leggers@dickinsoncountyia.gov>, <recorder@co.greenes.ia.us>, <kreierson@co.fayette.ia.us>, <recorder@polkcountyia.gov>, <recorder48@iowacounty.iowa.gov>, <helliott@mitchellcoia.us>, <recorder@marioncountyia.gov>, <recorder@kossuthcounty.iowa.gov>, <bittnerr@lucasco.org>, <recorder@keokukcounty.iowa.gov>, <awittrock@carrollcountyia.gov>, <creis@bvcountyia.com>, <recorder@marshallcountyia.gov>, <steffener@dmcounty.com>, <recorder@scottcountyia.gov>, <recorder@plymouthcountyia.gov>, <recorder@blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov>, <sweeks@claycounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@guthriecounty.gov>, <nbooten@leecounty.org>, <ssmith@obriencounty.iowa.gov>, <fgeith@hamisoncounty.iowa.gov>, <dshindler@co.delaware.ia.us>, <recorder@taylorcounty.iowa.gov>, <sboothby@co.cherokee.ia.us>, <recorder@montgomerycountyia.gov>, <mbahnsen@cedarcountry.iowa.gov>, <besaias@co.page.ia.us>, <lkadner@hardincountyia.gov>, <recorder@henrycountyia.us>, <recorder@crawfordcounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@warrencountyia.org>, <recorder@grundycountyia.gov>, <dbaker@wrightco.iowa.gov>, <aschauf@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov>, <sruppert@paloaltocounty.iowa.gov>, <dcattorney@dallascountryia.gov>, <thayes@louisacountyia.gov>, <rvokaty@howardcounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder1@poweshiekcounty.org>, <janderson@cityofiowafalls.com>, <info@cityofasbury.com>, <cityclerk@denisonia.com>, <bward@osceolaia.net>, <cityclerk@chariton.org>, <alent@indianolaia.gov>, <elinorp@siouxcenter.org>, <cjeff@cityofjeffersoniowa.org>, <webmaster@forddodgeiowa.org>, <rwilliams@grimesiowa.gov>, <trudy@cityofcharlescity.org>, <cityclerk@orangedcityiowa.com>, <gmcolarnon@cityofclarinda.com>, <info@manchester-ia.org>, <bwilkerson@tiffin-iowa.org>, <dbell@algonaiowa.gov>, <info@cityofeldridgeia.org>, <cityclerk@independenceia.org>, <diane.voss@cityofames.org>, <msmith@cityofpella.com>, <cityhall@lemarsiowa.com>, <CityHall@cityofsergeantbluff.com>, <bjorth@centrallyon.org>, <sbisgard@linnmar.k12.ia.us>, <tluxford@george-littlerock.org>, <earleyr@live.siouxcityschools.com>, <ahawkins@dbqschools.org>, <jeff.maeder@columbuscsd.org>, <mash@sccioa.edu>, <public-records@uiowa.edu>, <admissions@iwcc.edu>, <stoaks@swccioa.edu>, <Helpdesk.Email@indianhills.edu>, <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>

Cc: Matt Brick <Matt.Brick@brickgentrylaw.com>

To those who have responded honorably and professionally, it has meant a lot to me. I am a retired United States Navy Veteran that has investigated the concealment of my children across three states since 2017 and the government bodies (City of Newton, IA/Jasper County, IA) who have produced evidence of concealing public records related to domestic abuse, misrepresenting facts, 1st Amendment right violations during the 2022 election year, misrepresenting a public record, falsely accusing a citizen requesting public records in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22 of criminal conduct during two separate Iowa Public Information Board cases, and inconsistent enforcement of Iowa Code Section 708.7. At the same time, these government bodies (City of Marshalltown, IA, City of Newton, IA, Jasper County, IA) have produced direct/indirect evidence of discrimination against a documented service-connected mental health disability related to their enforcement of this section of the Iowa Code.

I am not a lawyer, I am a Father and a United States Navy Sailor that will execute acts according to my faith, the US Code, and the Iowa Code. At the same time, I work to protect the reader of this electronic mail and their children from what my children have lost.

If all the State of Iowa has is false allegations of criminal conduct supported by zero evidence, \$9000 record fees to search for eight electronic mail addresses, and inconsistent law enforcement documented on concealed public records.

I will wait in prayer for the only Teacher and the only Judge to deliver the Truth as the Light reveals it.

MEMORANDUM

From: Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com

To: Iowa Government Bodies Consolidated

Subj: IOWA OPEN RECORDS REQUEST - UPDATE - CONSOLIDATED

2. Iowa Code Title I State Sovereignty and Management, Chapter 23 Public Access to Government Information (Iowa Public Information Board Act) - Section 23.7 - Filing of complaints with the board.

1. Public Record Request Guidance

(a.) Time Frame of Request

Government bodies included in this status request are requested to provide any available records stored and preserved by the government body in receipt of the original request that matches the provided criteria, including any electronic mail records that include any of the eight provided addresses in an electronic mail file stored and preserved by the government body.

(b.) Government body requests completion of a specific form

Iowa Code Section 22.4 states:

"2. In writing, by telephone, or by electronic means. The lawful custodian of the records shall post information for making such requests in a manner reasonably calculated to apprise the public of that information."

The Iowa Legislature has protected a citizen's right to submit a public records request in writing, by telephone (voice), or by electronic means in accordance with Iowa Code Section 22.4. This section of the Iowa Code does not support a government body having the ability to require a specific form to be completed, whether static or dynamic, because this requirement voids an Iowa citizen's right to submit their request for public records by telephone. All Iowa Government Bodies receiving this update have received the previous public records request electronically. No further submissions or proprietary forms will be completed.

(c.) Government Body Fee's IAW Iowa Code Section 22.3

The link below provides examples of over 40 Iowa Government Body Microsoft 365 organizational users (as confirmed by public DNS - Domain Name System - records) that completed either of the following:

- (a.) Completed a search of the government body mail server and reported no records matched the provided parameters in the original record request with zero fees.
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- (c.) Completed a search of the government body mail server and provided all located public records with zero fees.

<https://airtable.com/appI0bqEiYK0lc1OC/shrkUYIPeHmGu5k50>

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208

"Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay."

Cipher Hunter

- Iowa Open Records Request - Attorney General (Department of Justice) - 463 - CM-X2
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- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Transportation - 469 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Human Services - 466 - CM-X2
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- Iowa Open Records Request - Office of the Treasurer of State - 476 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Economic Development Authority - 471 - CM-X2
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- Iowa Open Records Request - Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System - 473 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Public Health - 467 - CM-X2

Item 1 of 1
Attachment 1 of 1
Iowa Open Records Request - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Wapello County IA - 545 - CM-X2
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Iowa Open Records Request - Iowa County IA - 512 - CM-X2
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Iowa Open Records Request - Lee County IA - 519 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - O'Brien County IA - 532 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Harrison County IA - 507 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Delaware County IA - 495 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Taylor County IA - 543 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Cherokee County IA - 488 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Montgomery County IA - 530 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Cedar County IA - 487 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Page County IA - 533 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Hardin County IA - 506 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Henry County IA - 508 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Crawford County IA - 492 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Warren County IA - 546 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Grundy County IA - 504 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Wright County IA - 549 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jackson County IA - 513 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Palo Alto County IA - 534 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Dallas County IA - 493 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Louisa County IA - 520 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Howard County IA - 509 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Poweshiek County IA - 538 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Iowa Falls IA - 572 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Asbury IA - 553 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Denison IA - 562 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Osceola IA - 580 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Chariton IA - 558 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Indianola IA - 571 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Sioux Center IA - 586 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Jefferson IA - 573 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Fort Dodge IA - 566 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Grimes IA - 567 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Charles City IA - 559 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Orange City IA - 579 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Clarinda IA - 560 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Manchester IA - 576 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County IA - 563 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Tiffin IA - 588 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Algona IA - 551 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Eldridge IA - 564 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Independence IA - 570 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Ames IA - 552 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Pella IA - 582 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Le Mars IA - 575 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Sergeant Bluff IA - 585 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Central Lyon Comm School District - 592 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Linn-Mar Comm School District - 597 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - George-Little Rock Comm School District - 596 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Sioux City Comm School District - 599 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Dubuque Comm School District - 595 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Columbus Comm School District - 593 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Southeastern Community College - 606 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - University of Iowa - 608 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Iowa Western Community College - 605 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Southwestern Community College - 607 - CM-X2

11 attachments

-  **Record Request - 1686700206365.pdf**
95K
-  **Cipher Phoenix Mail - Electronic Service - Iowa Open Records Request.pdf**
74K
-  **Record Request - 1686700018752.pdf**
94K
-  **PRR 3187 Invoice.pdf**
197K
-  **Record Request - 1686700180772.pdf**
94K
-  **Cipher Phoenix Mail - Public records requestfsd.pdf**
66K
-  **Unnamed attachment.pdf**
21K
-  **Cipher Phoenix Mail - Iowa Open Records Request - Greene County IA - 503 - CM-X2- Status Request - 01 of 02.pdf**
81K
-  **Record Request - 1686700223126.pdf**
94K
-  **Iowa Open Records Request - Update - Michael J Merritt - 31 JUL 2023.pdf**
89K
-  **Record Request - 1686700007298.pdf**
94K

wd: Consolidated Update

message

Tue, Aug 8, 2023 at 3:51 F

ckley, Erika <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>
SecurityAwareness@iowa.gov

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If there is no concern, then please let me know. If there is concern, then any recommendations you have to assist in educating entities about how to respond to requests for emails and data information or what to retain for security would be much appreciated.

Thank you for your time.

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Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB)

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Date: Tue, Aug 1, 2023 at 10:29 AM
Subject: Consolidated Update

To: <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>, <bayens@dps.state.ia.us>, <emily.wharton@blind.state.ia.us>, <scott.marler@doj.iowa.gov>, <kgarcia@dhs.state.ia.us>, <beth.townsend@iwd.iowa.gov>, <treasurer@tos.iowa.gov>, <debi.durham@iowaeda.com>, <michael.naig@iowaagriculture.gov>, <greg.samorajski@pers.org>, <paul.pate@sos.iowa.gov>, <kmathis@allamakeecounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@adamscounty.iowa.gov>, <lkent@wapellocounty.org>, <icrane@vanburencounty.iowa.gov>, <aassink@floydcoia.org>, <general@jaspercoatty.org>, <jphillips@ic.acountyia.us>, <damundson@humboldtcountyia.org>, <ggreer@shco.org>, <recorder@jonescountyiowa.gov>, <k.kallas@pottcounty-ia.gov>, <karl.kennedy@dubuquecountyiowa.gov>, <tberry@co.fremont.ia.us>, <leggers@dickinsoncountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@co.greene.ia.us>, <kreierson@co.fayette.ia.us>, <recorder@polkcountyiowa.gov>, <recorder48@iowacounty.iowa.gov>, <helliott@mitchellcoia.us>, <recorder@marioncountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@kossuthcounty.iowa.gov>, <bitnerr@lucasco.org>, <recorder@keokukcounty.iowa.gov>, <awittrock@carrollcountyiowa.org>, <creis@bvcountyiowa.com>, <recorder@marshallcountyia.gov>, <steffenern@dmcounty.com>, <recorder@scottcountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@plymouthcountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov>, <sweeks@claycounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@guthriecounty.gov>, <nbooten@leecounty.org>, <ssmith@obriencounty.iowa.gov>, <fgeith@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov>, <dschindler@co.delaware.ia.us>, <recorder@taylorcounty.iowa.gov>, <sboothby@co.berkeley.ia.us>, <recorder@montgomerycountyia.gov>, <recorder@crawfordcounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@warrencountyia.org>, <besaias@co.page.ia.us>, <lkadner@hardincountyia.gov>, <aschauf@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov>, <sruppert@paloaltocounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@grundycountyiowa.gov>, <dbaker@wrightco.iowa.gov>, <aschauf@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov>, <sruppert@paloaltocounty.iowa.gov>, <dcattorney@dallascountyiowa.gov>, <thayes@louisacountyia.gov>, <rvokaty@howardcounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder1@poweshiekcounty.org>, <janderson@cityofiowafalls.com>, <info@cityofasbury.com>, <cityclerk@denisonia.com>, <bward@osceolaia.net>, <cityclerk@chariton.org>, <alent@indianolaia.gov>, <ellinorp@siouxcenter.org>, <cjeff@cityofjeffersoniowa.org>, <webmaster@fortdodgeiowa.org>, <williams@grimesiowa.gov>, <trudy@cityofcharlescity.org>, <cityclerk@orangecityiowa.com>, <gmclarion@cityofdarinda.com>, <info@manchester-ia.org>, <bwilkerson@tiffin-iowa.org>, <dbell@algonaiowa.gov>, <info@cityofeldridgeia.org>, <cityclerk@independenceia.org>, <diane.voss@cityofames.org>, <msmith@cityofpella.com>, <cityhall@emarsiowa.com>, <CityHall@cityofsergeantbluff.com>, <bjorth@centrallyon.org>, <sbisgard@linnmar.k12.ia.us>, <tluxford@george-littlerock.org>, <earleyr@live.siouxcityschools.com>, <ahawkins@dbqschools.org>, <jeff.maeder@columbuscsd.org>, <mash@sccioa.edu>, <public-records@uiowa.edu>, <admissions@iwcc.edu>, <stoaks@swccioa.edu>, <Helpdesk.Email@indianhills.edu>, <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>
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PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com

To: Iowa Government Bodies Consolidated

Subj: IOWA OPEN RECORDS REQUEST - UPDATE - CONSOLIDATED

2. Iowa Code Title I State Sovereignty and Management, Chapter 22 Examination of Public Records (Open Records)

1. Public Record Request Guidance

(a.) Time Frame of Request

Government bodies included in this status request are requested to provide any available records stored and preserved by the government body in receipt of the original request that matches the provided criteria, including any electronic mail records that include any of the eight provided addresses in an electronic mail file stored and preserved by the government body.

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Iowa Open Records Request - Plymouth County IA - 535 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Black Hawk County IA - 482 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Clay County IA - 489 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Guthrie County IA - 505 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Lee County IA - 519 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - O'Brien County IA - 532 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Harrison County IA - 507 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Delaware County IA - 495 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Taylor County IA - 543 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Cherokee County IA - 488 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Montgomery County IA - 530 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Cedar County IA - 487 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Page County IA - 533 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Hardin County IA - 506 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Henry County IA - 508 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Crawford County IA - 492 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Warren County IA - 546 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Grundy County IA - 504 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Wright County IA - 549 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jackson County IA - 513 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Palo Alto County IA - 534 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Dallas County IA - 493 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Louisa County IA - 520 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Howard County IA - 509 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Poweshiek County IA - 538 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Iowa Falls IA - 572 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Asbury IA - 553 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Denison IA - 562 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Osceola IA - 580 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Chariton IA - 558 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Indianola IA - 571 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Sioux Center IA - 586 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Jefferson IA - 573 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Fort Dodge IA - 566 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Grimes IA - 567 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Charles City IA - 559 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Orange City IA - 579 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Clarinda IA - 560 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Manchester IA - 576 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County IA - 563 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Tiffin IA - 588 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Algona IA - 551 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Eldridge IA - 564 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Independence IA - 570 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Ames IA - 552 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Pella IA - 582 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Le Mars IA - 575 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Sergeant Bluff IA - 585 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Central Lyon Comm School District - 592 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Linn-Mar Comm School District - 597 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - George-Little Rock Comm School District - 596 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Sioux City Comm School District - 599 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Dubuque Comm School District - 595 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Columbus Comm School District - 593 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Southeastern Community College - 606 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - University of Iowa - 608 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Iowa Western Community College - 605 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Southwestern Community College - 607 - CM-X2

11 attachments

-  **Record Request - 1686700206365.pdf**
95K
-  **Cipher Phoenix Mail - Electronic Service - Iowa Open Records Request.pdf**
74K
-  **Record Request - 1686700018752.pdf**
94K
-  **PRR 3187 Invoice.pdf**
197K
-  **Record Request - 1686700180772.pdf**
94K
-  **Cipher Phoenix Mail - Public records requestfsd.pdf**
66K
-  **Unnamed attachment.pdf**
21K
-  **Cipher Phoenix Mail - Iowa Open Records Request - Greene County IA - 503 - CM-X2- Status Request - 01 of 02.pdf**
81K
-  **Record Request - 1686700223126.pdf**
94K
-  **Iowa Open Records Request - Update - Michael J Merritt - 31 JUL 2023.pdf**
89K
-  **Record Request - 1686700007298.pdf**
94K

E: ** External Email Alert ** Fwd: The Form of the Flying Dutchman

message

Roberts Nicole <nroberts@dps.state.ia.us>
1: "Eckley, Erika" <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>
2: Waymire Patrick <waymire@dps.state.ia.us>, Callaway Chris <callaway@dps.state.ia.us>, Glas Laura <glas@dps.state.ia.us>

Fri, Jul 14, 2023 at 11:03 AM

Good Morning –

The below email was received. We have shared this information with OCIO and the Iowa State Patrol for their awareness.

Cyber related concerns can be directed to can be directed to OCIO also in the future:

<https://ocio.iowa.gov/>

Thanks,

Nikki

Nicole "Nikki" Roberts
Criminal Intelligence Analyst
Division of Intelligence and Fusion Center
Iowa Department of Public Safety
215 East 7th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0049
Local (515) 725-6316
Toll (800) 308-5983
Fax (515) 725-6320
Non-secure email: nroberts@dps.state.ia.us

NOTICE This email message (including any file attachments transmitted with it) is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and legally privileged information. Any unauthorized use or disclosure of this email by an unintended recipient is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error please notify the sender by return e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message. No representation is made that this email or any attachments are free of viruses. Virus scanning is recommended and is the responsibility of the recipient.

From: Eckley, Erika <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:03 PM
To: intinfo <intinfo@dps.state.ia.us>
Subject: ** External Email Alert ** Fwd: The Form of the Flying Dutchman

****External Email Alert**** This email is from outside DPS. DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you expected them. If unsure please forward to ITOC for review.

I am uncertain if this is the appropriate division or if there is a better place to reach out for some assistance, so please let me know if there is.

Michael Merritt communicates almost on a daily basis with IPiB in the fashion similar to below. (This is actually much shorter and lucid than most.) I have some cyber security concerns with his links and attachments. I especially worry about this database he says he is building which sounds like he is trying to be able to search all of the electronic records for all these entities or that it could create some security risks if he collects information about where and how records are stored online. I don't know if he is capable of collecting such information or if this is part of some of his mental health issues. He has said that he had extensive computer and networking experience in the Navy.

IPIB does not seem to have any authority or ability to address anything like this, so I am asking for any guidance or assistance you can provide on what limits we should put to ensure protection for government entities. It is possible that this is not anything that I need to worry about, if so, please let me know that as well.

Thank you for any assistance or direction you can provide.

Erika Eckley, Executive Director

Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB)

From: Michael Merritt <cipher.hunter@ciphphoenix.com>

Date: Mon, Jul 10, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Subject: The Form of the Flying Dutchman

To: Eckley, Erika <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>

Cc: Scott Nicholson <snicholson@jaspercoatty.org>, Doug Cupples <dcupples@jasperia.org>, Brandon Talsma <btalsma@jasperia.org>, John Halferty <jhalferty@jaspersheriff.org>, <robb@newtongov.org>, <chrisw@newtongov.org>, <michaelh@newtongov.org>, <evelyn@newtongov.org>, <melissad@newtongov.org>, <craig@newtongov.org>, <randye@newtongov.org>, <markh@newtongov.org>, <vickiw@newtongov.org>, <jcrc@iowa.gov>, <dciinfo@dps.state.ia.us>, <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>, <waynew@newtongov.org>, Malt Brick <Malt.Brick@brickgentrylaw.com>, <dave.brick@brickgentrylaw.com>, <jim.brick@brickgentrylaw.com>, <steve.brick@brickgentrylaw.com>, <stephanie.drey@brickgentrylaw.com>, <nolden.gentry@brickgentrylaw.com>, Liz Bennett <liz.bennett@legis.iowa.gov>, Tony Bisignano <tony.bisignano@legis.iowa.gov>, Nate Boulton <nate.boulton@legis.iowa.gov>, Mike Bousset <mike.bousset@legis.iowa.gov>, Waylon Brown <waylon.brown@legis.iowa.gov>, Claire Celsi <claire.celsi@legis.iowa.gov>, Mark Costello <mark.costello@legis.iowa.gov>, Chris Cournoyer <chris.cournoyer@legis.iowa.gov>, Dan Dawson <dan.dawson@legis.iowa.gov>, rocky.dewitt@legis.iowa.gov <rocky.dewitt@legis.iowa.gov>, Adrian Dickey <adrian.dickey@legis.iowa.gov>, Molly Donahue <molly.donahue@legis.iowa.gov>, William A. Dotzler Jr. <bill.dotzler@legis.iowa.gov>, Dawn Driscoll <dawn.driscoll@legis.iowa.gov>, Jeff Edler <jeff.edler@legis.iowa.gov>, Lynn Evans <lynn.evans@legis.iowa.gov>, Julian B. Garrett <julian.garrett@legis.iowa.gov>, Eric Giddens <eric.giddens@legis.iowa.gov>, Jesse Green <jesse.green@legis.iowa.gov>, Kerry Gruenhagen <kerry.gruenhagen@legis.iowa.gov>, Dennis Guth <dennis.guth@legis.iowa.gov>, Pam Jochum <pam.jochum@legis.iowa.gov>, Mike Klimesh <mike.klimesh@legis.iowa.gov>, Izaah Knox <izaah.knox@legis.iowa.gov>, <izaah.knox@legis.iowa.gov>, Carrie Koelker <carrie.koelker@legis.iowa.gov>, Tim Kraayenbrink <tim.kraayenbrink@legis.iowa.gov>, Mark S. Lofgren <mark.lofgren@legis.iowa.gov>, Charlie McClintock <charlie.mcdintock@legis.iowa.gov>, Janet Petersen <janet.petersen@legis.iowa.gov>, Herman C. Quirnbach <herman.quirnbach@legis.iowa.gov>, Jeff Reichman <jeff.reichman@legis.iowa.gov>, David D. Rowley <david.rowley@legis.iowa.gov>, Ken Rozenboom <ken.rozenboom@legis.iowa.gov>, Sandy Salmon <sandy.salmon@legis.iowa.gov>, Jason Schultz <jason.schultz@legis.iowa.gov>, Tom Shipley <tom.shipley@legis.iowa.gov>, Amy Sinclair <amy.sinclair@legis.iowa.gov>, Annette Sweeney <annette.sweeney@legis.iowa.gov>, Jeff Taylor <jeff.taylor@legis.iowa.gov>, Todd E. Taylor <todd.taylor@legis.iowa.gov>, Sarah Trone Garriott <sarah.trone.garriott@legis.iowa.gov>, Zach Wahls <zach.wahls@legis.iowa.gov>, scott.webster@legis.iowa.gov <scott.webster@legis.iowa.gov>, Janice Weiner <janice.weiner@legis.iowa.gov>, <janice.weiner@legis.iowa.gov>, chunter@registermedia.com <chunter@registermedia.com>, Cheri Lynn Westrich <cheri Lynn.westrich@legis.iowa.gov>, Jack Whitver <jack.whitver@legis.iowa.gov>, Cindy Winckler <cindy.winckler@legis.iowa.gov>, Brad Zaun <brad.zaun@legis.iowa.gov>, Dan Zumbach <dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>

Executive Director Eckley:

I will be donating a public database I built while being treated at the US Department of Veterans Affairs Des Moines, IA Medical Center for 6 weeks for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) trauma and symptoms that have caused me to isolate myself for the last 5 years of my life.

This database will provide the Iowa Public Information Board a dynamic lookup and verification of where the following government bodies store and preserve their digital public records.

-All Iowa State Agencies

-All Iowa Counties

-Top 100 Iowa Municipalities (Will expand in the future. At the same time, evidence indicates municipalities smaller than this generally utilize ISP provided infrastructure to save tax dollars. (Preliminary Conclusion))

-All Iowa Public School Districts

This database provides a dynamic lookup in the event a government body has changed providers for verification purposes.

I respectfully submit that when the state makes the decision to store its data on third-party commercial infrastructure or software the state has forfeited its ability to communicate a fee that evidence indicates is possibly only consistent with its internal desires. Given the evidence that the majority of all Iowa Government Bodies utilize either Microsoft 365 or Google Workspace to store and preserve its government body data. I respectfully submit it is the Iowa Public Information Board's responsibility to ensure that the citizens of Iowa are provided records Section 2 of Article 1 and Iowa Code Chapter 22 have determined they have a right to with a consistent fee in accordance with Iowa Code Section 22.3. An Iowa Government Body should never have the ability to dictate a price point that economically elevates a public record out of reach of the citizens they govern that Section 2 of Article 1 communicates maintain political power over the State of Iowa. Especially when they do not have physical custody of the cloud-based infrastructure storing the requested data. In the next year I will be producing a public declaration supported by evidence showing the existence of the invisible subsection of Iowa Code Section 22.7 utilized for public records evidence indicates the State of Iowa desires to conceal: The elevation of the fee allegedly in accordance with Iowa Code Section 22.3 above what the average citizen can afford for a public record that the state desires not to release. At the same time, the State covertly produces evidence of establishing a fee that is not ethically consistent with Iowa Code Section 22.3.

"In my day a Sys Admin was responsible for the hardware and the software on their network. Now all you have to do is login to someone else's infrastructure and make policy."

-Said an old Salty IT nobody has heard of

My work is for the purpose of protecting the rights of others that were denied to my children and I by what evidence indicates are unethical parties only invested in safeguarding their own lives, political power, and career paths.

Everything I accomplish I do while serving my Lord Jesus Christ to protect the citizens I have served since 1997. Everything I accomplish represents his glory. I am nothing more than a writer that provides evidence of the Truth with no name and no face that died in a dark town home in the City of Newton, IA in 2019 after realizing everyone that I turned to for help had thrown me away as I lost my children and my life within the country that I was returning home to after serving it for twenty years.

<https://cipherphoenix.com/2023/07/10/the-form-of-the-flying-dutchman/>

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer

Founder: cipherphoenix.com

Creative Writer/Musician

Information Warfare Specialist

Information Systems Manager

PO BOX 187

Newton, IA 50208

"Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay."

Cipher Hunter

From: AG Webteam [AG]
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32eb
d113-webteam>
To: Bankruptcy, IDR
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=73ee8548cf0a4f22844a235eb778
7b26-idr bankrup>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: DECLARATION AND EVIDENCE OF ATTORNEY MISCONDUCT —
IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION REGULATORY COMPLIANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE
PROCESS MANAGER KAITLIN SMITH
Date: Tue Jun 10 2025 08:50:44 CDT
Attachments: current_complaint_form_July_2018_Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory
Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith.pdf
Declaration - ISCADB Complaint - Kaitlin Smith.pdf

From: Michael J. Merritt <mj.merritt@cipherhunter.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 1:21 AM
To: Smith, Kaitlin [ICRC] <Kaitlin.Smith@iowa.gov>; Stiffler, Kristen [ICRC] <Kristen.Stiffler@iowa.gov>; caitlin.jarzen@iowacourts.gov
Cc: cjones@marshalltown-ia.gov; sheriff@marshallcountya.gov; gnichols@marshalltown-ia.gov; bkell@marshalltown-ia.gov; mfonseca@marshalltown-ia.gov; mladehoff@marshalltown-ia.gov; mayor@marshalltown-ia.gov; jschneider@marshalltown-ia.gov; mmitchell@marshalltown-ia.gov; gthompson@marshalltown-ia.gov; Jordan Gaffney <jgaffney@marshallcountya.gov>; supervisors@marshallcountya.gov; Nan Benson <nbenson@marshallcountya.gov>; melissad@newtongov.org; joelm@newtongov.org; stevem@newtongov.org; evelyng@newtongov.org; randye@newtongov.org; stacys@newtongov.org; markh@newtongov.org; Nicholson, Scott <snicholson@jaspercoatty.org>; matt.brick@brickgentrylaw.com; Eckley, Erika [IPIB] <Erika.Eckley@iowa.gov>; IPIB IPIB <ipib@iowa.gov>; icrc@iowa.gov; Records [IGOV] <Records@governor.iowa.gov>; Bayens, Stephan <bayens@dps.state.ia.us>; AG Webteam [AG] <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>; dcupples@jasperia.org; btalsma@jasperia.org; bshutts@jaspersheriff.org
Subject: DECLARATION AND EVIDENCE OF ATTORNEY MISCONDUCT — IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION REGULATORY COMPLIANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS MANAGER KAITLIN SMITH

Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board:

Attached please find my completed ISCADB complaint form and declaration concerning alleged professional misconduct by Kaitlin Smith, Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager at the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

All referenced evidence is publicly accessible at the following secure URL:

<https://io.phoenixharbor.net/public/grid/0j0u6iLbRX2eRRDSJYAcJ4iLQNpOj8KVb6rEhRnHkT8>
<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fio.phoenixharbor.net%2Fpublic%2Fgrid%2F0j0u6iLbRX2eRRDSJYAcJ4iLQNpOj8KVb6rEhRnHkT8&data=05%7C02%7CIDR.Bankruptcy%40ag.iowa.gov%7C1f3b6be9cf2c46ef548b08dda825cbeb%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638851603692371724%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpCIsldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=h4JYCGcq48DsY9fYlek%2FFg7VZokF9eQC%2B7p9AING844%3D&reserved=0>>

A hard copy of the complaint and declaration will be delivered via USPS Priority Mail, along with a thumb drive containing all 14 attachments.

This matter is deeply personal. The ongoing ethical failures I have tracked and documented across legal communities in Iowa and California have contributed directly to the destruction of my family, the loss of personal joy, and a disconnection from life itself. My commitment in submitting this complaint is to ensure that no other parent or child suffers the same institutional failures my children have endured.

I am committed to seeing this resolved through lawful means with unyielding resolve.

The Form of the Constitutional Fleet Reserve

https://youtu.be/UVRUxtPKK-w?si=BNNqfHQGOAg_bB9q <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FUVRUxtPKK-w%3Fsi%3DBNNqfHQGOAg_bB9q&data=05%7C02%7CIDR.Bankruptcy%40ag.iowa.gov%7C1f3b6be9cf2c46ef548b08dda825cbeb%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638851603692396343%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpCIsldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2B8BWI7Ln%2BjJfHevD4uiQvTYTwMka5SezJQfb8iYWh%2Fs%3D&reserved=0>

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN (Ret.)

Founder, Cipher Hunter

Information Warfare Specialist

Information Systems Manager

2510 S 6th St. D24

Marshalltown, IA 50158

(641) 387-9935

✉ mj.merritt@cipherhunter.net <<mailto:mj.merritt@cipherhunter.net>>

[cipherhunter.net](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcipherhunter.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7CIDR.Bankruptcy%40ag.iowa.gov%7C1f3b6be9cf2c46ef548b08dda825cbeb%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638851603692412687%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BVFvp1nuEzvEo2sCqTX3OJx8FxbT2YLaZHrGr0suTj8%3D&reserved=0) <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcipherhunter.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7CIDR.Bankruptcy%40ag.iowa.gov%7C1f3b6be9cf2c46ef548b08dda825cbeb%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638851603692412687%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BVFvp1nuEzvEo2sCqTX3OJx8FxbT2YLaZHrGr0suTj8%3D&reserved=0>>

“Tyranny breeds within government infrastructure that does not provide information with the same freedoms, rights, and liberties as the citizens who produced it.”

Legal Disclaimer: Cipher Hunter <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcipherhunter.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7CIDR.Bankruptcy%40ag.iowa.gov%7C1f3b6be9cf2c46ef548b08dda825cbeb%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638851603692432032%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=SbMC6GbfsbT8fhQ9%2Fml9EhLziciq7UHcuZFv3MkvHg0%3D&reserved=0>> (2025-00002035) is a registered trade name in Marshall County, IA. Cipher Hunter <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcipherhunter.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7CIDR.Bankruptcy%40ag.iowa.gov%7C1f3b6be9cf2c46ef548b08dda825cbeb%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638851603692451067%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=SbMC6GbfsbT8fhQ9%2Fml9EhLziciq7UHcuZFv3MkvHg0%3D&reserved=0>>

7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUslIYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilsI
kFOljoiTWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=d2zWRgPmB7pSLZP4%
2BwCPbM3QAaEXbRXghuvPkefWhzE%3D&reserved=0> is a division within the Phoenix
Harbor <[---

Page 53 of 183](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fphoenixharbor.
net%2F&data=05%7C02%7CIDR.Bankruptcy%40ag.iowa.gov%
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7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUslIYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilsI
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properties.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32ebd113-webteam>
Filename: current_complaint_form_July_2018_Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory
Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith.pdf
Last Modified: Tue Jun 10 08:50:44 CDT 2025

Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board Complaint Form

Complete a separate form for each attorney with whom you have a complaint.

<i>Your name</i> Michael J. Merritt		<i>E-mail address</i> mj.merritt@cipherhunter.net	
<i>Street Address</i> 2510 S 6th St, D24	<i>City</i> Marshalltown	<i>State</i> IA	<i>ZIP code</i> 50158
<i>Home phone</i> N/A	<i>Cell phone</i> 641-387-9935	<i>Business phone</i> N/A	

Name of attorney about whom you are complaining: Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith			
<i>Business address</i> 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100	<i>City</i> Des Moines	<i>State</i> IA	<i>ZIP code</i> 50321-1270
<i>Business phone</i> 515-281-4121			

Did you hire the attorney? <i>Check one</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when did you hire the attorney?	
If no, what is your connection to the attorney? Iowa Civil Rights Commission Complaint: CP#10-23-80682/Records Request	

If your complaint is about a lawsuit or court case, answer the following:	
A.	Name of court: <i>Examples: Iowa District Court for Polk County; United States District Court for Northern District of Iowa</i>
B.	Case title: <i>Examples: Smith vs. Jones; State vs. Doe</i>
C.	Case number:

Type or write neatly on one or more separate sheets of paper a detailed factual statement of what the attorney did or did not do. Return the sheet(s) with this form. Write on only one side of the complaint form and the additional sheets of paper. Attach copies of documents that prove or help to explain your complaint, such as fee agreements, letters, checks, receipts, itemized billings, and court papers. Send only copies, not original documents, as we are not able to return your documents to you.

In filing this complaint, you are waiving confidentiality and attorney-client privileges, if any, between you and the attorney named above. This waiver allows the attorney to disclose your confidential information to the extent reasonably necessary to respond to the complaint.

Oath and Signature			
I, <u>Michael J. Merritt</u> (<i>print your name</i>), certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the State of Iowa that the allegations of this complaint are true and correct.			
<i>Month</i> June	<i>Day</i> 10	<i>Year</i> 2025	<i>Your Signature</i> 

Send the completed form to: <i>(form current as of 4/1/2016, see Iowa Court Rule 35.15)</i>	Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board Iowa Judicial Branch Building 1111 East Court Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50319 Telephone (515) 348-4680
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Owner: AG Webteam [AG] </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32ebd113-webteam>
Filename: Declaration - ISCADB Complaint - Kaitlin Smith.pdf
Last Modified: Tue Jun 10 08:50:44 CDT 2025

IOWA SUPREME COURT ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

<p>Cipher Hunter Complainant, vs. Kaitlin Smith, Respondent.</p>	<p>Case No.: Pending Assignment</p> <p>DECLARATION AND EVIDENCE OF ATTORNEY MISCONDUCT — IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION REGULATORY COMPLIANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS MANAGER KAITLIN SMITH</p>
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COMES NOW Pro Se Michael J. Merritt for Complainant Cipher Hunter, in this matter before the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board. Respectfully requesting review of the below testimony and evidence in accordance with Iowa Rules of the Court Chapter 32 and 35.

I. PARTIES

1. Petitioner, Cipher Hunter, is a civic transparency and records research initiative focused on the protection of civil liberties and governmental accountability registered in Marshall County, Iowa, and managed by Michael J. Merritt. Mr. Merritt is a retired U.S. Navy veteran, information warfare specialist, and public records' researcher. He is also an advocate for domestic violence survivors, individuals living with mental health disabilities, and veterans affected by military sexual trauma (MST).
 2. Respondent, Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith, is a Public Service Manager 2 within the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.
-

II. CAUSE OF ACTION

1. **32:8.4(d)** — “*engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice;*” — Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith allegedly failed to release the case file for CP#10-23-80682 despite receiving the “Request for Administrative Release (Right-to-Sue)” declaration. (See Attachments 8, 9, 10, 12, and 14).
2. **32:8.4(d)** — “*engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice;*” — Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith allegedly misrepresented available public records and failed to release the requested public records (See Attachments 11 and 13).
3. **32:4.4(a.)** — “*In representing a client, a lawyer shall not use means that have no substantial purpose other than to embarrass, delay, or burden a third person, or use methods of obtaining evidence that violate the legal rights of such a person.*” — Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith allegedly failed to release the case file for CP#10-23-80682 despite receiving the “Request for Administrative Release (Right-to-Sue)” declaration. (See Attachments 8, 9, 10, 12, and 14).
4. **32:4.4(a.)** — “*In representing a client, a lawyer shall not use means that have no substantial purpose other than to embarrass, delay, or burden a third person, or use methods of obtaining evidence that violate the legal rights of such a person.*” — Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith allegedly misrepresented available public records and failed to release the requested public records (See Attachments 11 and 13).
5. **32:8.4(a.)** — “*violate or attempt to violate the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another;*” —

This complaint alleges Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith has engaged in conduct supporting four distinct violations of the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct as supported by the testimony and evidence within this complaint.

III. FACTS AND BACKGROUND

The Complainant communicated on 01 MAY 2025 (See Attachment 8, Electronic Mail — Michael J Merritt — 01 MAY 2025 — 1815) his intention to investigate the evidence supporting the Iowa Civil Rights Commission’s failure to properly implement Iowa Code §§ 216.5(1) and 216.5(3) which mandate prompt and impartial investigation of civil rights complaints during case CP#10-23-80682. The timeline of evidence submitted within this complaint supports the Iowa Civil Rights Commission’s alleged failure to properly locate and release requested public records as required by Iowa Code Chapter 22 and release the requested case file for CP#10-23-80682 pursuant to Iowa Code § 216.5(17).

Timeline of Events

Each of the following events corresponds to a documented attachment and supports the foundation for the alleged Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct violations outlined in Section II.

1. **11-12 JUL 2023** – On 11 JUL 2023, Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckley communicated, *“His emails are getting more and more prolific (maybe I just had a reprieve for a couple months) and quite frankly, I have some cyber security concerns with his links and attachments. I especially worry about this database he is building which sounds like he is trying to be able to search all of the electronic records for all these entities or that it could create some security risks if he collects information about where and how records are stored online. I don’t know if he is capable of collecting such*

information or if this is part of some of his mental health issues.” On 12 JUL 2023, Iowa Public Information Board Chairman Julie Pottorff communicated, “I think it’s probably related to mental health issues. But you might call the Department of Public Safety and ask to talk to someone about your concerns. Someone in that department should be able to give you advice about dealing with him and should know whether any investigation into his activities is warranted. If investigation is warranted, the Department of Public Safety should handle it.” (See Attachment 1, Electronic Mail – Iowa Public Information Board – Combined – 11-12 JUL 2023 – 1458).

2. **13-14 JUL 2023** – On 13 JUL 2023, Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckely communicated to the Iowa Department of Public Safety, *“I am uncertain if this is the appropriate division or if there is a better place to reach out for some assistance, so please let me know if there is. Michael Merritt communicates almost on a daily basis with IPIB in the fashion similar to below. (This is actually much shorter and lucid than most.) I have some cyber security concerns with his links and attachments. I especially worry about this database he says he is building which sounds like he is trying to be able to search all of the electronic records for all these entities or that it could create some security risks if he collects information about where and how records are stored online. I don't know if he is capable of collecting such information or if this is part of some of his mental health issues. He has said that he had extensive computer and networking experience in the Navy. I do know that he makes prolific requests to cities and counties and many requests address emails and information related to their email systems, so it is possible he is gathering information that would be useful for such purposes. IPIB does not seem to have any authority or ability to address anything like this, so I am asking for any guidance or assistance you can provide on what limits we should put to ensure protection for government entities. It is possible that this is not anything that I need to*

worry about, if so, please let me know that as well. Thank you for any assistance or direction you can provide.” On 14 JUL 2023, State of Iowa Criminal Intelligence Analyst Nicole Roberts communicated to Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckley, “Good Morning – The below email was received. We have shared this information with OCIO and the Iowa State Patrol for their awareness. Cyber related concerns can be directed to can be directed to OCIO also in the future: <https://ocio.iowa.gov/> Thanks, Nikki” (See Attachment 2, Electronic Mail — Nicole Roberts – 14 JUL 2023 – 1103).

3. **20 JUL 2023** – Iowa Public Information Board 20 JUL 2023 Public Meeting (See Attachment 3, Chest Camera – Iowa Public Information Board Public Meeting – 20 July 2023).
4. **08 AUG 2023** – Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckley communicated to the State of Iowa Chief Information Officer, “I am not certain if this is anything that you all can address or need to address, but I have ongoing concerns regarding the activity from Mr. Merritt. I sent some information to public safety, but they suggested I contact OCIO. Mr. Merritt is making 1000s of records requests to government entities. He has a right to do that. The concern I have is that he has stated that he wants to develop a database of the government email systems etc. I know he is prolific in his postings online, and I am not sure how much information he has gathered or what he has posted that could potentially create risks and vulnerabilities to government entities. He continues to tout his military training in data security, so I am certain he is able to pull quite a bit of information from his requests. I have concerns about the scope of what is being collected and potential harm that could be done if there is a database that shares information that could be useful to others to harm these government systems if bad actors were able to use the information to insert malware or ransomware. If there is no concern, then please let me know. If there is concern, then any recommendations you have to assist

in educating entities about how to respond to requests for emails and data information or what to retain for security would be much appreciated. Thank you for your time.” (See Attachment 4, Electronic Mail – Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Eckley – 08 AUG 2023 — 1551).

5. **22 AUG 2023** – Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Eckley communicated, *“The Iowa Public Information Board is not able to accept any of the 35 complaints filed at 3:48 a.m. on August 11, 2023. In reviewing the seemingly **auto-generated** and batched complaints, there is no evidence that any government entity has refused to comply with the request as made. There is also no evidence that the requests have even be received by the entities. You have withdrawn your complaints against the Iowa Department of the Blind and the Iowa Secretary of State’s office, the remaining 33 complaints are dismissed as failing to allege a violation of Iowa Code Chapter 22.”* (See Attachment 5, Memorandum - Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckley - 22 AUG 2023).
6. **15 SEP 2023** – *“Erika Eckley, the board’s executive director, told the committee the proposed legislation is intended to address what she called “excessive and abusive” requests for information. ”, “We’ve had some issues with individuals filing hundreds of requests and engaging in abuse – what many would consider abusive and harassing conduct related to those,” Eckley told the committee. “And so looking at it there’s not a lot that individuals can do if they’re in that situation. There’s very little that they can do other than to continue to just take the harassment and continue to have to review the information from that individual to make sure they are complying with their (Open Records Law) requirements.”, “I’m not sure if it’s 100 for one specific agency, but there have been hundreds sent out by — across the state — quite extensive,” she said. She added that she has “become aware of an individual basically **automating** across all*

counties, all school boards, all cities, and such, seeking extensive records and then the communications after that can be quite abusive and harassing.”, “Eckley declined to identify the person who is making the “automated” requests and abusive comments, although she acknowledged the records requests are, themselves, considered to be public documents in Iowa”, “I don’t feel comfortable sharing the individual’s name,” she said. “This isn’t just one person, but this is — I mean, it was brought up because of that situation, but this is, I don’t believe this is a one-person issue.”, “She said the proposed legislation was composed at her own initiative and that no city, county or state officials had suggested she draft such a bill. “I brought up the potential issue to look at as something within our scope if there’s issues within the public records for our board to look at and consider if there’s anything we need to do or not,” she said.”, “When asked about that at Friday’s meeting, Eckley said the issue before the board has more to do with “the conduct” of the people requesting the records than with the requests themselves. “I guess that the purpose (of the draft legislation) is to look at if there are ways that we can prevent front-line employees from significant harassing behavior or other things that make it so that they’re not able to do the job, their main job for government,” she said. “It’s not to prevent individuals from filing requests. It’s to address those extreme cases.” (See Attachment 6, News Article – Iowa Capital Dispatch – 15 SEP 2023).

7. **22 SEP 2023** – *“A Navy veteran who says he has PTSD is the man responsible for triggering proposed new restrictions on Iowans’ access to government documents.”, “The individual, Michael J. Merritt of Newton, calls himself “Cipher Hunter” and describes himself as a “creative writer/musician and information warfare specialist.”, “He wrote to one state official earlier this year and explained that he had “been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder related to multiple false allegations of criminal conduct going back to January 2017.”, “Last month, he filed almost three dozen complaints with*

*the Iowa Public Information Board, each alleging violations of Iowa's Open Records Law. Merritt's actions prompted IPIB's executive director to urge the board to take action, calling it a "potential immediate crisis" that could quickly consume all of IPIB's resources by forcing the board to investigate each of Merritt's complaints. Within days, IPIB quickly rejected all of Merritt's complaints, but then began considering proposed legislation that would enable state agencies, as well as Iowa's cities, counties and school districts, to ignore for up to one year any public-records requests generated by individuals deemed by the board to be the work of a "vexatious requester." **IPIB Executive Director Erika Eckley has said that while the proposed bill was prompted by the actions of one individual, she believes it's not "a one-person issue" in Iowa. The Iowa Capital Dispatch was unable to reach Merritt for comment.***, "Some board members have already expressed reservations with the proposal, noting that government agencies can pursue harassment charges or seek injunctive relief through the civil courts.", "In July, Merritt sent Eckley an email with the subject header "The Form of the Flying Dutchman," announcing his plans to donate to the state a database he had created showing where all state and local government agencies electronically store and preserve public documents. In the email, which was copied to dozens of other public officials, Merritt said he had compiled the database while being treated for PTSD.", "Pottorff responded by indicating Merritt's actions were "probably related to his mental health issues" and suggested Eckley consult with the Iowa Department of Public Safety.", "Days later, Eckley wrote to the state's Office of Chief Information Officer to express "ongoing concerns regarding the activity from Mr. Merritt." Eckley wrote that "Merritt is making 1000s of records requests to government entities. He has a right to do that. The concern I have is that he has stated he wants to develop a database of the government email systems, etc." She wrote that she was concerned about the "potential harm that could be done if there is a database that

*shares information that could be useful to others to harm these government systems if bad actors were able to use the information to insert malware of ransomware.”, “**At one point he told me he was going to develop a database of information to make request to government entities easier – particularly how they store emails,” Eckley told the board members.** “I am not sure his actions are meant to be a cybersecurity threat, but he could be creating information that others could use for attacks.” She warned of a “potential immediate crisis” that would have a direct impact on her own office, which works to resolve disputes over public-records requests. “This has ballooned into something that could consume all of the IPIB resources ... **if we have to open a complaint for every allegation he makes in regards to his voluminous and indecipherable requests.**” (See Attachment 7, News Article – Iowa Capital Dispatch – 22 SEP 2023).*

8. **01 MAY 2025** – Michael J. Merritt communicated to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, *“Attached is the requested declaration.”, “The people of the State of Iowa deserve to live in a world that acknowledges their grievances regarding evidence of discrimination that violates Iowa Code Chapter 216. Suppose the evidence indicates this board fails to manifest proper civil rights protections within the State of Iowa. In that case, I will lawfully work to see that they have it. Please provide the names and positions, including the executive director, of all personnel within the Iowa Civil Rights Commission who handled my complaint and are licensed by the Iowa Court.”* (See Attachment 8, Electronic Mail – Michael J Merritt – 01 MAY 2025 – 1815).

9. **13 MAY 2025** – Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith communicated to Michael J. Merritt, after being electronically provided a copy of the *“Request for Administrative Release (Right-to-Sue),” “The Iowa Office of Civil Rights has received your records request filed May 1, 2025. As an initial matter, under Iowa Code section 216.15(5), the civil rights*

commission is prohibited from disclosing the filing of civil rights complaints, as well as information connected to those complaints. Therefore, members of the public are not able to access the agency's case files through open records requests. However, as a person who has filed a complaint, you are able to get a copy of your own case file outside of the open records process. To do this, you would need to request a right to sue letter and copy of your case file by emailing those requests to icrc@iowa.gov or by responding to me making that request. There is no cost for obtaining a digital copy of your case file.” (See Attachment 9, Electronic Mail – Kaitlin Smith – 13 MAY 2025 – 1537).

10. **05 JUN 2025** – Michael J. Merritt communicated to Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith, *“I would like to respectfully redirect your attention to my 01 MAY 2025 electronic mail below that included the requested declaration for my case against the Iowa Public Information Board. I am also requesting to know if my case against Poweshiek County, IA, also qualifies for a right to sue declaration submission. Suppose it does qualify in that case; please provide the required case number information so I can prepare a right to sue letter for that case as well.”* (See Attachment 10, Electronic Mail – Michael J Merritt – 05 JUN 2025 – 1754).

11. **05 JUN 2025** – Michael J. Merritt requested the Iowa Civil Rights Commission provide individual electronic mail copies of a nine section email public records request thread sent to various State and local government bodies during 2024 (including the Iowa Civil Rights Commission). This request included a copy of the record provided by the Iowa Public Information Board in a previous records request verifying the State of Iowa has a copy of the requested record. The Iowa Civil Rights Commission was requested to provide this record because the Complainant in this case has experienced nothing but evidence of discrimination, criminalization, and unethical conduct not consistent with the

Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct from the Iowa Public Information Board. (See Attachment 11, Electronic Mail – Michael J. Merritt – 05 JUN 2025 – 1812).

12. **06 JUN 2025** – Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith communicated to Michael J. Merritt, *“I responded to your request on May 13, 2025. Please let me know if you would like me to resend that response to you. The complaint you filed against Poweshiek County is CP# 07-24-82277, and you have until 1/30/2027 to request a letter of right-to-sue.”* (See Attachment 12, Electronic Mail – Kaitlin Smith – 06 JUN 2025 – 0840).

13. **06 JUN 2025** – Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith communicated to Michael J. Merritt, *“Based on my review of your email and attachment, the Iowa Office of Civil Rights does not have any responsive records. If you would like to make a more specific request, I would be happy to review it.”* (See Attachment 13, Electronic Mail – Kaitlin Smith – 06 JUN 2025 – 1313).

14. **06 JUN 2025** – After evidence of numerous delays and misrepresentations of available public record by the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. The Complainant initiated the drafting and submission of legal documents in accordance with the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct regarding the evidence of delay an unnecessary burden imposed by the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. (See Attachment 14, Electronic Mail – Michael J. Merritt – 06 JUN 2025 – 1521).

IV. ATTACHMENTS

1. Electronic Mail – Iowa Public Information Board — Combined – 11-12 JUL 2023 —
1458

2. Electronic Mail — Nicole Roberts — 14 JUL 2023 — 1103
 3. Chest Camera – Iowa Public Information Board Public Meeting – 20 July 2023
 4. Electronic Mail — Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Eckley — 08 AUG 2023 — 1551
 5. Memorandum — Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckley — 22 AUG 2023
 6. News Article — Iowa Capital Dispatch — 15 SEP 2023
 7. News Article — Iowa Capital Dispatch — 22 SEP 2023
 8. Electronic Mail — Michael J Merritt — 01 MAY 2025 — 1815
 9. Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 13 MAY 2025 — 1537
 10. Electronic Mail — Michael J Merritt — 05 JUN 2025 — 1754
 11. Electronic Mail — Michael J. Merritt — 05 JUN 2025 — 1812
 12. Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 06 JUN 2025 — 0840
 13. Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 06 JUN 2025 — 1313
 14. Electronic Mail — Michael J. Merritt — 06 JUN 2025 — 1521
-

V. ANALYSIS

Despite clear email documentation from May and June 2025, Kaitlin Smith has repeatedly denied receiving the “*Request for Administrative Release (Right-to-Sue)*” declaration (See Attachments 9 — Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 13 MAY 2025 — 1537 and Attachment 12 — Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 06 JUN 2025 — 0840), even though Attachments 8 — Electronic Mail — Michael J Merritt — 01 MAY 2025 — 1815 and 10 — Electronic Mail — Michael J Merritt — 05 JUN 2025 — 1754 confirm that these declarations were submitted in accordance with the proper administrative procedures to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

When viewed in light of Ms. Smith’s legal background and her responsibilities as a State of Iowa Public Service Manager 2— these events may constitute a potential violation regarding willful misrepresentation and improper delay, potentially infringing upon the complainant’s statutory rights.

The evidence demonstrates a consistent pattern during Iowa Civil Rights Commission case CP#10-23-80682 and the commission's subsequent handling of administrative procedure pursuant to Iowa Code § 216.5(17) of improper diligence and obstruction.

Additionally, the Iowa Civil Rights Commission was asked to produce nine specific emails. Attachment 11 — Electronic Mail — Michael J. Merritt — 05 JUN 2025 — 1812, provides evidence that the State of Iowa continues to store and preserve these records—inconsistent with Ms. Smith’s representations in Attachment 13 — Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 06 JUN 2025 — 1313, that no such emails exist. To verify this inconsistency, the Complainant will be submitting identical records requests to other Iowa state agencies that host their email systems through the iowa.gov domain. This will assist the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board in determining whether Ms. Smith knowingly misrepresented the existence of public records in violation of Iowa Code Chapter 22 and the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Taken together, the documented facts and statutory violations form a pattern of conduct that cannot be dismissed as isolated oversights. Rather, they represent a systemic breach of public trust.

VI. CONCLUSION

This matter implicates not only the operational integrity of a key state agency, but the ethical

standards by which this Court vests public trust in its licensees. The conduct of Iowa Civil Rights Commission Public Service Manager Kaitlin Smith constitutes a serious breach of professional responsibility, meriting immediate investigation by the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board. This matter implicates not only the credibility of a state agency but also the standards of integrity governing the Iowa Bar and the Court's licensing authority.

The record reflects that the Iowa Civil Rights Commission failed to fulfill its statutory obligations under Iowa Code §§ 216.5(1) and 216.5(3), which require prompt, fair, and impartial investigation of civil rights complaints. Instead, the Commission dismissed case CP#10-23-80682 without addressing the core evidence presented (See Attachment 1, Electronic Mail — Iowa Public Information Board — Combined — 11-12 JUL 2023 -1458), and without acknowledging or processing the Complainant's "Request for Administrative Release (Right-to-Sue)." These failures—especially in concert—raise substantial concerns that the omissions were not accidental, but strategically calculated to delay or obstruct lawful litigation against another Iowa agency.

Moreover, the Iowa Supreme Court has communicated regarding Iowa Code Chapter 22 "*The purpose of the statute is to open the doors of government to public scrutiny [and] to prevent government from secreting its decision-making activities from the public, on whose behalf it is its duty to act.*" ' "*Diercks, 806 N.W.2d at 652 (quoting Rathmann v. Bd. of Dirs., 580 N.W.2d 773, 777 (Iowa 1998)).* " '*Accordingly, there is a presumption of openness and disclosure under this chapter.*' " *Id. (quoting Gabrilson v. Flynn, 554 N.W.2d 267, 271 (Iowa 1996)).*

This is not merely a guiding principle—it is binding law. Kaitlin Smith's conduct, as detailed in this declaration, cannot be reconciled with that mandate. The record supports a finding that her actions violate both Iowa statutory law and the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct, and directly contradict Iowa's constitutional commitments to transparency and civil rights protection.

Ms. Smith's failure to uphold her duties under Iowa Code Chapters 22 and 216 reflects not only

on her personal conduct, but also on the institutional posture of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. If left unaddressed, this matter would cast serious doubt on the Court's commitment to holding its licensees to meaningful standards of legal and ethical accountability.

Accordingly, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board initiate a formal review of Kaitlin Smith's conduct. This is not merely a request for disciplinary review—it is an affirmation that legal licensure in Iowa demands fidelity to law, transparency, and justice.

Fiat justitia ruat caelum

I certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the state of Iowa that the preceding is true and correct.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Michael J. Merritt

Michael J. Merritt
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2510 S 6th St. D24
Marshalltown, IA 50158
Telephone: (641)-387-9935
Email: mj.merritt@cipherhunter.net
Pro Se for Cipher Hunter

From: AG Webteam [AG]
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32eb
d113-webteam>
To: IDR Bankruptcy
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=73ee8548cf0a4f22844a235eb778
7b26-idr bankrup>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: ELECTRONIC MAIL BLOCK – JASPER COUNTY, IA – USER:
REATON@JASPERIA.ORG
Date: Fri Apr 21 2023 07:18:37 CDT
Attachments: 20230307135609547.pdf
708.7.pdf
Electronic Mail - Ryan Eaton - Jasper County IA - 13 APR 2022.pdf
Memorandum - ELECTRONIC MAIL BLOCK – JASPER COUNTY IA – USER
REATONJASPERIAORG.pdf

From: Michael J. Merritt <cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 11:06 PM
To: Scott Nicholson <snicholson@jaspercoatty.org>; Scott Nicholson <general@jaspercoatty.org>; Brandon Talsma <btalsma@jasperia.org>; Doug Cupples <dcupples@jasperia.org>
Cc: Eckley, Erika [IPIB] <Erika.Eckley@iowa.gov>; John Halferty <jhalferty@jaspersheriff.org>; Dunwell, Jon [LEGIS] <Jon.Dunwell@legis.iowa.gov>; robb@newtongov.org; wsimmons@grinnellpd.com; AG Webteam [AG] <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>
Subject: ELECTRONIC MAIL BLOCK – JASPER COUNTY, IA – USER:
REATON@JASPERIA.ORG

Electronic mail accounts located at phoenixharbor.com <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fphoenixharbor.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf50358bd89ab4cea94a608db421dcec9%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638176469390887460%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BreV98OhM%2FWi3Xed5wfYjzPdJ5JaG7wCq0w7Y3xKNN0%3D&reserved=0>> and related domains have blocked electronic mail from Jasper County, IA user reaton@jasperia.org due to evidence that was received in Enclosure (1.) on 13 APR 2023 that is believed to violate Iowa Code Section 708.7(1.) (a.) (4.) during Iowa Public Information Board case 22FC:0126. Iowa Public Information Board case 22FC:0126 is a complaint against Jasper County, IA, filed by the originator of this correspondence.

Domains belonging to phoenixharbor.com <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fphoenixharbor.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf50358bd89ab4cea94a608db421dcec9%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638176469390887460%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVC16Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BreV98OhM%2FWi3Xed5wfYjzPdJ5JaG7wCq0w7Y3xKNN0%3D&reserved=0>>

castlephoenix.com <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fcastlephoenix.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf50358bd89ab4cea94a608db421dcec9%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638176469390887460%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVC16Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=psf0ofFjbXCj8L3rmF2QloWGiflo45dTMA48R0SiJho%3D&reserved=0>>

phoenixcavern.com <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fphoenixcavern.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf50358bd89ab4cea94a608db421dcec9%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638176469390887460%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVC16Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ou4IHkd%2Fg7wy%2BHWzjQDt%2F0vgWJFbNtO%2BZyACYj9DKU0%3D&reserved=0>>

cipherphoenix.com <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fcipherphoenix.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf50358bd89ab4cea94a608db421dcec9%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638176469390887460%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVC16Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3KhrZ8Uxn2eoXRAYFhETAhICxBbLFLomJavP%2BH6kN0%3D&reserved=0>>

I expect never to hear from Mr. Ryan Eaton at any time. At the same time, given the evidence of Jasper County, IA Attorney Nicholson's desire to protect my rights related to a domestic abuse no-contact order and being hit by a car in a crosswalk a few blocks from the Jasper County, IA courthouse, I do not expect that this situation will be adequately handled.

The solution to this situation seems logical Jasper County, IA, can charge me for violating Iowa Code Section 708.11, as it communicated for the first time while responding to a record request for public records related to the evidence regarding its constitutional rights violation during the 2022 election year, or it can charge Mr. Eaton with violating Iowa Code Section 708.7 for falsely accusing me of a crime I did not commit while communicating with the Jasper County, IA attorney through electronic mail.

Jasper County, IA, failing to charge anyone in this situation only provides further evidence of the entitlement, incompetence, and corruption within the Jasper County, IA, Attorney's office.

I will be at the Jasper County, IA Supervisor's meeting on 24 APR 2023 to address these allegations and report to Jasper County, IA, that I was allegedly accused of stalking Jasper County, IA employees as reported by Mr. Ryan Eaton nearly a year ago and as public records stored and preserved by the Iowa Courts articulate the Jasper County, IA Attorney's office took zero action to protect it's employees. The only action evidence indicates Jasper County, IA, took was blocking me on Facebook while these elected leaders sought their re-election.

Note: Per Guidance provide by the Grinnell, IA Police Department if Jasper County, IA fails to handle this situation adequately I will be forwarding it to the Iowa State Attorney General's Office

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer

Founder: cipherphoenix.com <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fcipherphoenix.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf50358bd89ab4cea94a608db421dcec9%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638176469390887460%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3KhrZ8Uxn2eoXRAYFhETAhICxBbLFLomJavP%2BHY6kN0%3D&reserved=0>>

Creative Writer/Musician

Information Warfare Specialist

Information Systems Manager

PO BOX 187

Newton, IA 50208

“Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay.”

Cipher Hunter

Owner: AG Webteam [AG] </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32ebd113-webteam>
Filename: 20230307135609547.pdf
Last Modified: Fri Apr 21 07:18:37 CDT 2023

The Iowa Public Information Board

In re the Matter of: Michael Merritt, Complainant And Concerning: Jasper County, Respondent	Case Number: 22FC:0126 Dismissal Order
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COMES NOW, Margaret E. Johnson, Executive Director for the Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB), and enters this Dismissal Order:

On December 14, 2022, Michael Merritt filed formal complaint 22FC:0126, alleging that Jasper County (County) violated Iowa Code chapter 22 on December 7, 2022.¹

Mr. Merritt alleged that he submitted a request on October 18, 2022, for various records. His request has been summarized by IPIB staff (see Attachment 1).

On November 7, 2022, the Jasper County Attorney responded to his record request and stated that the County IT department had advised him that most of the request was for confidential records.

At that time, Mr. Merritt was advised by the County that he could provide salary information for employees if Mr. Merritt would provide the names of the employees. The records identified in request 1(b) were provided.

On January 31, 2023, Jasper County provided additional information to IPIB staff concerning the confidential records that were withheld:

This is against basic our network and cyber security policies based on CISA (Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency, Division of Home Land Security), NIST (National Institute of Standards and technology, US Department of Commerce).

Jasper County also has to meet cyber security policies for HIPAA (Jasper County is a Hybrid Entity) , CJIS, Elections Infrastructure Sharing and Analysis Center, and The Iowa Secretary of State Elections Security Legislative Rules.

Such discussions on topics are protected by 21.5(k) and I normally ask for closed public meetings to discuss with the Board of Supervisors.

<https://www.cisa.gov/cybersecurity>

<https://www.nist.gov/cyberframework>

¹ Mr. Merritt's complaint was not opened until December 22, 2022, as IPIB awaited copies of his record request and the County response. The County was notified on that date.

<https://le.fbi.gov/cjis-division-resources/cjis-security-policy-resource-center>

<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/security/index.html>

I also work with the Sheriff's office on Cybercrimes and execute warrants to search computers and online accounts.

This response was provided to Mr. Merritt. Mr. Merritt then filed a reply with 21 attachments disputing the response from Jasper County.

The original record request from Mr. Merritt was framed as a request for answers to questions or confirmations of statements made by Mr. Merritt. He also requested the identification of certain employees with specific access to electronic communications, not for the records that may have been generated by these Jasper County employees.

Iowa Code section 22.7(50) states that certain records concerning cyber security are confidential:

50. Information and records concerning physical infrastructure, cyber security, critical infrastructure, security procedures or emergency preparedness information developed, maintained, or held by a government body for the protection of life or property, if disclosure could reasonably be expected to jeopardize such life or property.

a. Such information and records include but are not limited to information directly related to vulnerability assessments; information contained in records relating to security measures such as security and response plans, security codes and combinations, passwords, restricted area passes, keys, and security or response procedures; emergency response protocols; and information contained in records that if disclosed would significantly increase the vulnerability of critical physical systems or infrastructures of a government body to attack.

b. For the purpose of this subsection, "cyber security information and records" include but are not limited to information and records relating to cyber security defenses, threats, attacks, or general attempts to attack cyber system operations.

As explained by the County, the release of these records would jeopardize the security of the information maintained by the County. The release of such records could disclose critical infrastructure utilized by the County to protect personal information, medical information, and state and federal laws, rules, and regulations.

Certain parts of the original record request were framed as requests for records. Request 1(b) was provided. Any records responsive to requests 1(a) and 3 are confidential pursuant to Iowa Code section 22.7(50). The County did not violate Iowa Code chapter 22 by withholding this information.

Iowa Code section 23.8 requires that a complaint be within the IPIB's jurisdiction, appear legally sufficient, and have merit before the IPIB accepts a complaint. This complaint does not meet those requirements.

IT IS SO ORDERED: Formal complaint 22FC:0126 is dismissed as legally insufficient and without merit pursuant to Iowa Code section 23.8(2) and Iowa Administrative Rule 497-2.1(2)(b).

Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Rule 497-2.1(3), the IPIB may "delegate acceptance or dismissal of a complaint to the executive director, subject to review by the board." The IPIB will review this Order on March 16, 2023. Pursuant to IPIB rule 497-2.1(4), the parties will be notified in writing of its decision.

By the IPIB Executive Director


Margaret E. Johnson, J.D.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

This document was sent on the 7th day of March, 2023, to:

Michael Merritt
Scott Nicholson, Jasper County Attorney

Attachment
I

On October 18, 2022, Merritt submitted a request to the Jasper County Sheriff's Office to produce a number of records. The records Merritt requested are listed below:

1. Confirmation co.jasper.ia.us is hosted, stored, and preserved at:
Co-jasper-ia.us.mail.protection.outlook.com

Confirmation jasperia.org is hosted, stored, and preserved at:
jasperiaorg.mail.protection.outlook.com

Confirmation jaspercoatty.org is hosted, stored, and preserved at:
Jaspercoattyorg.mail.protection.outlook.com

- a. 12 months of billing records for each of the above-listed commercially hosted cloud-based information system services.
 - b. All Jasper County, IA electronic mail correspondence, including attachments, mentioning Mike Merritt, Mike J Merritt, Mike J. Merritt, Mike James Merritt, Michael Merritt, Michael J Merritt, Michael J. Merritt, Michael James Merritt, Facebook, block, social media, phoenixharbor.com, and castlephoenix.com during 01 JAN 2019 at 0001 local time through 18 OCT 2022 at 2359 local time stored and preserved at the above-listed domains—or at any other maintained automated information system (AIS), information system (IS), or Commercial cloud-based information system belonging to Jasper County, IA.
2. Name and annual income of the Jasper County, IA elected, appointed, contracted, hired employee(s) or authorized users that are authorized to access and maintain the following social media assets:

<https://www.facebook.com/JasperCountyIowa>

<https://www.facebook.com/dougcouplesjaspercountysupervisor>

<https://www.facebook.com/brandontalsmajaspercountysupervisor>

3. Jasper County, IA web traffic history showing elected, appointed, contracted, hired employee(s), or authorized users accessing the following web address (URL) on any maintained domain, automated information system (AIS), information system (IS), or commercial cloud-based information system belonging to Jasper County, IA:

<https://www.facebook.com/JasperCountyIowa>

1. <http://netflix.com>
2. <https://netflix.com>
3. <http://www.netflix.com>
4. <https://www.netflix.com>

5. <http://hulu.com>
6. <https://hulu.com>
7. <http://www.hulu.com>
8. <https://www.hulu.com>
9. <http://hbomax.com>
10. <https://hbomax.com>
11. <http://www.hbomax.com>
12. <https://www.hbomax.com>
13. <http://disneyplus.com>
14. <https://disneyplus.com>
15. <http://www.disneyplus.com>
16. <https://www.disneyplus.com>
17. <http://paramountplus.com>
18. <https://paramountplus.com>
19. <http://www.paramountplus.com>
20. <https://www.paramountplus.com>
21. <http://youtube.com>
22. <https://youtube.com>
23. <http://www.youtube.com>
24. <https://www.youtube.com>
25. <http://music.youtube.com>
26. <https://music.youtube.com>
27. <http://www.music.youtube.com>
28. <https://www.music.youtube.com>
29. <http://spotify.com>
30. <https://spotify.com>
31. <http://www.spotify.com>
32. <https://www.spotify.com>
33. <http://music.apple.com>
34. <https://music.apple.com>
35. <http://www.music.apple.com>
36. <https://www.music.apple.com>
37. <http://music.amazon.com>
38. <https://music.amazon.com>
39. <http://www.music.amazon.com>
40. <https://www.music.amazon.com>
41. <http://xbox.com>
42. <https://xbox.com>
43. <http://www.xbox.com>
44. <https://www.xbox.com>
45. <http://steampowered.com>
46. <https://steampowered.com>
47. <http://www.steampowered.com>
48. <https://www.steampowered.com>

Owner: AG Webteam [AG] </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32ebd113-webteam>
Filename: 708.7.pdf
Last Modified: Fri Apr 21 07:18:37 CDT 2023

708.7 Harassment.

1. *a.* A person commits harassment when, with intent to intimidate, annoy, or alarm another person, the person does any of the following:

(1) Communicates with another by telephone, telegraph, writing, or via electronic communication without legitimate purpose and in a manner likely to cause the other person annoyance or harm.

(2) Places a simulated explosive or simulated incendiary device in or near a building, vehicle, airplane, railroad engine or railroad car, or boat occupied by another person.

(3) Orders merchandise or services in the name of another, or to be delivered to another, without the other person's knowledge or consent.

(4) Reports or causes to be reported false information to a law enforcement authority implicating another in some criminal activity, knowing that the information is false, or reports the alleged occurrence of a criminal act, knowing the act did not occur.

(5) Disseminates, publishes, distributes, posts, or causes to be disseminated, published, distributed, or posted a photograph or film showing another person in a state of full or partial nudity or engaged in a sex act, knowing that the other person has not consented to the dissemination, publication, distribution, or posting.

b. A person commits harassment when the person, purposefully and without legitimate purpose, has personal contact with another person, with the intent to threaten, intimidate, or alarm that other person.

2. *a.* A person commits harassment in the first degree when the person commits harassment involving any of the following:

(1) A threat to commit a forcible felony.

(2) A violation of [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a", subparagraph (5).

(3) Commits harassment and has previously been convicted of harassment three or more times under [this section](#) or any similar statute during the preceding ten years.

(4) Harassment that occurs against another person who is lawfully in a place of public accommodation as defined in [section 216.2](#).

b. Harassment in the first degree is an aggravated misdemeanor.

3. *a.* A person commits harassment in the second degree when the person commits harassment involving a threat to commit bodily injury, or commits harassment and has previously been convicted of harassment two times under [this section](#) or any similar statute during the preceding ten years.

b. Harassment in the second degree is a serious misdemeanor.

4. *a.* Any other act of harassment is harassment in the third degree.

b. Harassment in the third degree is a simple misdemeanor.

5. For purposes of determining whether or not the person should register as a sex offender pursuant to the provisions of [chapter 692A](#), the fact finder shall make a determination as provided in [section 692A.126](#). However, the fact finder shall not make a determination as provided in [section 692A.126](#) regarding a juvenile convicted of a violation of [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a", subparagraph (5), and the juvenile shall not be required to register as a sex offender with regard to the violation.

6. The following do not constitute harassment under [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a", subparagraph (5):

a. A photograph or film involving voluntary exposure by a person in public or commercial settings.

b. Disclosures made in the public interest, including but not limited to the reporting of unlawful conduct, disclosures by law enforcement, news reporting, legal proceeding disclosures, or medical treatment disclosures.

c. Disclosures by an interactive computer service of information provided by another information content provider, as those terms are defined in 47 U.S.C. §230.

7. A person injured by a violation of [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a", subparagraph (4), may bring a civil action against the person whose conduct violated [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a", subparagraph (4).

8. As used in [this section](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

§708.7, ASSAULT

2

a. “*Full or partial nudity*” means the showing of any part of the human genitals or pubic area or buttocks, or any part of the nipple of the breast of a female, with less than fully opaque covering.

b. “*Personal contact*” means an encounter in which two or more people are in visual or physical proximity to each other. “*Personal contact*” does not require a physical touching or oral communication, although it may include these types of contacts.

c. “*Photographs or films*” means the making of any photograph, motion picture film, videotape, or any other recording or transmission of the image of a person.

d. “*Sex act*” means the same as defined in [section 702.17](#).

[C71, 73, 75, 77, §714.37, 714.42; C79, 81, §708.7; 82 Acts, ch 1209, §19]

83 Acts, ch 96, §157, 159; 86 Acts, ch 1238, §28; 87 Acts, ch 13, §4; 89 Acts, ch 226, §1; 94 Acts, ch 1093, §3; 2000 Acts, ch 1132, §3; 2009 Acts, ch 119, §53; 2017 Acts, ch 117, §2; 2021 Acts, ch 101, §1; 2021 Acts, ch 183, §41, 43; 2022 Acts, ch 1032, §106, 111

Referred to in §232.8, 664A.2, 692A.102, 692A.126, 720.7, 901C.3

Harassment with intent to interfere with official judicial acts, see §720.7

Section not amended; section history revised

Owner: AG Webteam [AG] </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32ebd113-webteam>
Filename: Electronic Mail - Ryan Eaton - Jasper County IA - 13 APR 2022.pdf
Last Modified: Fri Apr 21 07:18:37 CDT 2023

RE: Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County, IA - #009/#010/#013/#016

From Ryan Eaton <reaton@jasperia.org>

To Michael J. Merritt <cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com>

CC Scott Nicholson <general@jaspercoatty.org>, Scott Nicholson <snicholson@jaspercoatty.org>, Brandon Talsma <btalsma@jasperia.org>, Doug Cupples <dcupples@jasperia.org>

Date Wednesday, April 12th, 2023 at 6:37 PM

Mr. Merritt,

I did not respond to your ramblings from Monday because I do not begin to understand where you were going with your thought process. So, here is my best guess for answers:

1. You don't like the smell of Jasper county, but your live in Poweshiek so, I guess that is solved?
2. I don't know how Mr. Talsma drives a tractor, but last time I talked to him about farming, he uses GPS integration. The tractors basically drive themselves, so I cannot explain why his rows are crooked. Maybe he needs to download and update. I will pass your concern along. I do wonder why you are watching him?
3. Mr. Cupples has been out of car sales for quite some time, but I will let him know you are thinking of him.
4. I have no idea who "The Babtist standing in dirty water" refers to so, I am unable to share your words with them.
5. I don't really spend any time thinking about you or your somewhat clouded experiences in the Navy were like. I do know several retired Naval people including Master Chiefs. I don't really know what that means but, it sounds impressive.

6. You are correct, I did go to my office and ignore you. I was not really sure how to handle a man with wild hair and in pajamas following me through the courthouse with a camera asking why I am being mean to him. I don't suppose I learned anything. I still would not know how a rational person is supposed to react to that.

7. I don't know or actually care when or why you abused your wife. That seems to have happened in California and a judge or the Navy ruled on that already? I briefly tried to understand in your multiple letters you included me on, but frankly you bounce around so much got lost trying to figure out who the Nazis in Montana are and what they have to do with an email request.

8. I can't dance. Not even a little.

9. The Iowa Public Information Board already ruled, we provided you with a list of who is blocked on 2 of the 10 pages. You are it.

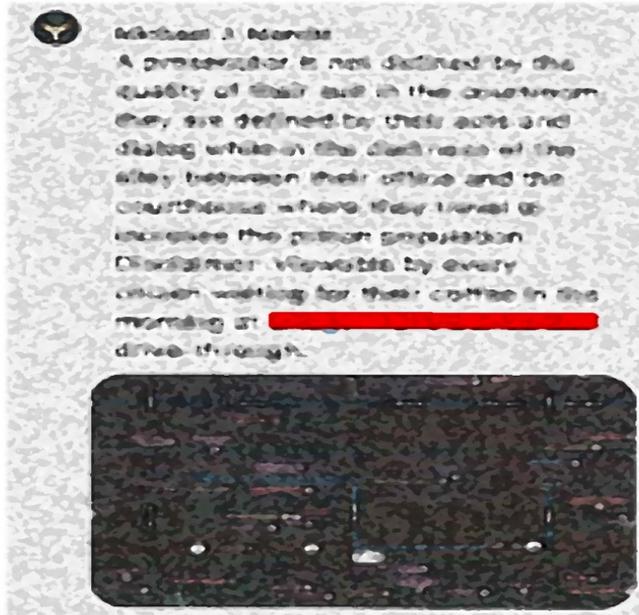
You already let IPIB and a long list of your normal spam recipients know that you are taking us to District Court for blocking you and we are waiting to receive a Subpeona. I will remind you why, since you keep saying "The evidence proves it is a political move to silence you". I get the feeling you really want it to be that, but it is far less complicated.

The day you started stalking county employees and mapping their locations and times, I received several phone calls complaining and asking me to stop it. I untagged the posts and you replied "Nice try" and reapplied them. I contacted Facebook and they suggested I simply block you.

Sorry it does not fit your last 8 months of all these elected officials trying to silence you. It was simply to protect county employees.

Really is came down to economics. It is cheaper for the county to be sued by 1 and explain in court why I took action than to be sued by 9 employees of the office you tagged for ignoring their employee safety complaints.

Here is a obscured image of that particular post.



Now back to the email requests. I did some quick research and Mr Dunwell did not move back to Iowa until 2019 and was not in office until a special election in Oct 2021. Covid-19 delayed his swearing in until 2022. So, your search parameters are invalid. you still have not provided the names of the users emails to search. I gave you the "Actual cost" to perform the search.

Your assessment on the cost is incorrect. While I understand some entities have more basic email systems that you can understand, we have much higher security and encryption set up on each account to meet federal and state requirements. We follow the NIST Principle of Least Privilege (POLP). I must manually allow the E-discovery account access each encrypted box and download gigs of email to a forensic computer to then be searched, reported, then then reviewed and exported.

With 3 staff to support hundreds of employees it can only be done after hours.

You will need to confirm you will pay the those costs with the Attorney's office. Then, as previously explained 3 times now, make a complete request by dates, name of user to search. Please see the IPIB ruling attached.

Finally, per your request, I will no longer be your contact nor will you need to talk to me in the IT role when you can find a ride to Newton. You have all that time I back now. You will resume putting in requests through the County Attorney. You can remove me from future emails or not, I occasionally get time to read them.

Good luck to you and goodbye.

Ryan

PS. You might consider enabling SPF records on your email server so, your emails don't all go to everyone's quarantine and deleted in 3 days.

From: Michael J. Merritt <cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 4:22 PM

To: General Attorney <general@jaspercoatty.org>; Scott Nicholson <snicholson@jaspercoatty.org>; Ryan Eaton <reaton@jasperia.org>

Subject: Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County, IA - #009/#010/#013/#016

[**NOTICE:** This message originated outside of Jasper County -- **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

This document is being served to Jasper County, IA in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22.4.

Iowa Code Chapter 22.4 Public Records Request

(2) "In writing, by telephone, or by electronic means. The lawful custodian of the records shall post information for making such requests in a manner reasonably calculated to apprise the public of that information."

IOWA OPEN RECORDS REQUEST – JASPER COUNTY, IA – #009 – ELIMINATION OF THE FOG OF WAR – #01

IOWA OPEN RECORDS REQUEST – JASPER COUNTY, IA – #010 – ELIMINATION OF THE FOG OF WAR – #02

IOWA OPEN RECORDS REQUEST – JASPER COUNTY, IA – #013 – ELIMINATION OF THE FOG OF WAR – #05

IOWA OPEN RECORDS REQUEST – JASPER COUNTY, IA – #016 – THE FORM OF ATARI – #001

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer

Founder: cipherphoenix.com

Creative Writer/Musician

Information Warfare Specialist

Information Systems Manager

PO BOX 187

Newton, IA 50208

"Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay."

Cipher Hunter

702.28 KB 2 files attached 1 embedded image

image001.jpg 167.84 KB

email-1.2.eml 77.20 KB

V. 3. Brick 21AO0006.pdf 457.24 KB

Owner: AG Webteam [AG] </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32ebd113-webteam>
Filename: Memorandum - ELECTRONIC MAIL BLOCK – JASPER COUNTY IA – USER
REATONJASPERIAORG.pdf
Last Modified: Fri Apr 21 07:18:37 CDT 2023



14 April 2023

MEMORANDUM

From: Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com

To: Jasper County, IA
Jasper County Courthouse
101 1st Street N
Newton, IA 50208

Grinnell, IA Police Department
1020 Spring Street
Grinnell, IA 50112

**Subj: ELECTRONIC MAIL BLOCK - JASPER COUNTY, IA - USER:
REATON@JASPERIA.ORG**

Ref: 1. Title XVI - CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE, Chapter 708 Assault,
Section 708.7 Harassment
2. Title XVI - CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE, Chapter 708 Assault,
Section 708.11 Stalking
3. Title XVI - CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE, Chapter 718 - Offenses
Against the Government, Section 718.6 False reports to or
communications with public safety entities

4. Title XVI - CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE, Chapter 802 - Limitations of Criminal Actions, Section 802.4 Simple misdemeanor - ordinance

5. "Attorney's Office." Staff Directory • Jasper County, IA • CivicEngage, Jasper County, IA,
<https://www.co.jasper.ia.us/Directory.aspx?DID=18>.

Enc: (1.) Electronic Mail - Ryan Eaton - 13 APR 2023

(2.) Iowa Public Information Board Case: 22FC:0126 - Pending Dismissal

(3.) Chest Cam Footage - Michael J. Merritt - Jasper County, IA Sheriffs Department - 13 APR 2023

1. Introduction

Ryan Eaton communicated in electronic mail on 13 APR 2023, *"The day you started stalking county employees and mapping their locations and times, I received several phone calls complaining and asking me to stop it. I untagged the posts and you replied "Nice try" and reapplied them. I contacted Facebook and they suggested I simply block you. Sorry it does not fit your last 8 months of all these elected officials trying to silence you. It was simply to protect county employees. Really is came down to economics. It is cheaper for the county to be sued by 1 and explain in court why I took action than to be sued by 9 employees of the office you tagged for ignoring their employee safety complaints."*; *"I don't know or actually care when or why you abused your wife. That seems to have happened in California and a judge or the Navy ruled on that already? I briefly tried to understand in your multiple letters you included me on, but frankly you bounce around so much got lost trying to figure out who the Nazis in Montana are and what they have to do with an email request."*

2. Electronic Mail Block

Electronic mail accounts located at phoenixharbor.com and related domains have blocked electronic mail from Jasper County, IA user reaton@jasperia.org due to evidence that was received in Enclosure (1.) on 13 APR 2023 that is believed to violate Iowa Code Section 708.7(1.) (a.) (4.) during Iowa Public Information Board case 22FC:0126. Iowa Public Information Board case 22FC:0126 is a complaint against Jasper County, IA, filed by the originator of this correspondence.

3. Conclusion

Upon completing the originator's investigation, a voluntary sworn statement with supporting evidence will be submitted to the Grinnell, IA Police Department within the requirements of Reference (4.).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Merritt". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com

"Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay."

Cipher Hunter

From: AG Webteam [AG]
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32eb
d113-webteam>
To: IDR Bankruptcy
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=73ee8548cf0a4f22844a235eb778
7b26-idr bankrup>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: ELECTRONIC MAIL BLOCK – JASPER COUNTY, IA – USER:
REATON@JASPERIA.ORG
Date: Fri Apr 21 2023 07:18:37 CDT
Attachments: 20230307135609547.pdf
708.7.pdf
Electronic Mail - Ryan Eaton - Jasper County IA - 13 APR 2022.pdf
Memorandum - ELECTRONIC MAIL BLOCK – JASPER COUNTY IA – USER
REATONJASPERIAORG.pdf

From: Michael J. Merritt <cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 11:06 PM
To: Scott Nicholson <snicholson@jaspercoatty.org>; Scott Nicholson <general@jaspercoatty.org>; Brandon Talsma <btalsma@jasperia.org>; Doug Cupples <dcupples@jasperia.org>
Cc: Eckley, Erika [IPIB] <Erika.Eckley@iowa.gov>; John Halferty <jhalferty@jaspersheriff.org>; Dunwell, Jon [LEGIS] <Jon.Dunwell@legis.iowa.gov>; robb@newtongov.org; wsimmons@grinnellpd.com; AG Webteam [AG] <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>
Subject: ELECTRONIC MAIL BLOCK – JASPER COUNTY, IA – USER:
REATON@JASPERIA.ORG

Electronic mail accounts located at phoenixharbor.com <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fphoenixharbor.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7CIDR.Bankruptcy%40ag.iowa.gov%7C3c82e320d0ca48dba81908db426288cb%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638176763613832707%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0T%2FQII5gAhvrgUgHFMUSeZkOOPJFV8ne%2Bg2ProIAz5M%3D&reserved=0>> and related domains have blocked electronic mail from Jasper County, IA user reaton@jasperia.org due to evidence that was received in Enclosure (1.) on 13 APR 2023 that is believed to violate Iowa Code Section 708.7(1)(a)(4.) during Iowa Public Information Board case 22FC:0126. Iowa Public Information Board case 22FC:0126 is a complaint against Jasper County, IA, filed by the originator of this correspondence.

Domains belonging to phoenixharbor.com <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fphoenixharbor.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7CIDR.Bankruptcy%40ag.iowa.gov%7C3c82e320d0ca48dba81908db426288cb%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638176763613832707%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=oT%2FQII5gAhvrgUgHFMUSeZkOOPJFV8ne%2Bg2ProlAz5M%3D&reserved=0>>

castlephoenix.com <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fcastlephoenix.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7CIDR.Bankruptcy%40ag.iowa.gov%7C3c82e320d0ca48dba81908db426288cb%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638176763613832707%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=isATIZ0dF0uphUswjQplDUbpO6dKPOhsao3LmolmSq0%3D&reserved=0>>

phoenixcavern.com <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fphoenixcavern.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7CIDR.Bankruptcy%40ag.iowa.gov%7C3c82e320d0ca48dba81908db426288cb%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638176763613832707%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=d3axA8sq9NANYxAFmj%2F9pEtyEVqnZVQzNp%2Ffj%2BgOBlo%3D&reserved=0>>

cipherphoenix.com <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fcipherphoenix.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7CIDR.Bankruptcy%40ag.iowa.gov%7C3c82e320d0ca48dba81908db426288cb%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638176763613988962%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=aZB%2FSrR3v3q9ffDdMmiPXP2Y1HCSQ%2BLpAHkcNyQUnt4%3D&reserved=0>>

I expect never to hear from Mr. Ryan Eaton at any time. At the same time, given the evidence of Jasper County, IA Attorney Nicholson's desire to protect my rights related to a domestic abuse no-contact order and being hit by a car in a crosswalk a few blocks from the Jasper County, IA courthouse, I do not expect that this situation will be adequately handled.

The solution to this situation seems logical Jasper County, IA, can charge me for violating Iowa Code Section 708.11, as it communicated for the first time while responding to a record request for public records related to the evidence regarding its constitutional rights violation during the 2022 election year, or it can charge Mr. Eaton with violating Iowa Code Section 708.7 for falsely accusing me of a crime I did not commit while communicating with the Jasper County, IA attorney through electronic mail.

Jasper County, IA, failing to charge anyone in this situation only provides further evidence of the entitlement, incompetence, and corruption within the Jasper County, IA, Attorney's office.

I will be at the Jasper County, IA Supervisor's meeting on 24 APR 2023 to address these allegations and report to Jasper County, IA, that I was allegedly accused of stalking Jasper County, IA employees as reported by Mr. Ryan Eaton nearly a year ago and as public records stored and preserved by the Iowa Courts articulate the Jasper County, IA Attorney's office took zero action to protect it's employees. The only action evidence indicates Jasper County, IA, took was blocking me on Facebook while these elected leaders sought their re-election.

Note: Per Guidance provide by the Grinnell, IA Police Department if Jasper County, IA fails to handle this situation adequately I will be forwarding it to the Iowa State Attorney General's Office

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer

Founder: cipherphoenix.com <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fcipherphoenix.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7CIDR.Bankruptcy%40ag.iowa.gov%7C3c82e320d0ca48dba81908db426288cb%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C0%7C638176763613988962%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=aZB%2FSrR3v3q9ffDdMmiPXP2Y1HCSQ%2BLpAHkcNyQUnt4%3D&reserved=0>>

Creative Writer/Musician

Information Warfare Specialist

Information Systems Manager

PO BOX 187

Newton, IA 50208

“Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay.”

Cipher Hunter

Owner: AG Webteam [AG] </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32ebd113-webteam>
Filename: 20230307135609547.pdf
Last Modified: Fri Apr 21 07:18:37 CDT 2023

The Iowa Public Information Board

In re the Matter of: Michael Merritt, Complainant And Concerning: Jasper County, Respondent	Case Number: 22FC:0126 Dismissal Order
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COMES NOW, Margaret E. Johnson, Executive Director for the Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB), and enters this Dismissal Order:

On December 14, 2022, Michael Merritt filed formal complaint 22FC:0126, alleging that Jasper County (County) violated Iowa Code chapter 22 on December 7, 2022.¹

Mr. Merritt alleged that he submitted a request on October 18, 2022, for various records. His request has been summarized by IPIB staff (see Attachment 1).

On November 7, 2022, the Jasper County Attorney responded to his record request and stated that the County IT department had advised him that most of the request was for confidential records.

At that time, Mr. Merritt was advised by the County that he could provide salary information for employees if Mr. Merritt would provide the names of the employees. The records identified in request 1(b) were provided.

On January 31, 2023, Jasper County provided additional information to IPIB staff concerning the confidential records that were withheld:

This is against basic our network and cyber security policies based on CISA (Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency, Division of Home Land Security), NIST (National Institute of Standards and technology, US Department of Commerce).

Jasper County also has to meet cyber security policies for HIPAA (Jasper County is a Hybrid Entity) , CJIS, Elections Infrastructure Sharing and Analysis Center, and The Iowa Secretary of State Elections Security Legislative Rules.

Such discussions on topics are protected by 21.5(k) and I normally ask for closed public meetings to discuss with the Board of Supervisors.

<https://www.cisa.gov/cybersecurity>

<https://www.nist.gov/cyberframework>

¹ Mr. Merritt's complaint was not opened until December 22, 2022, as IPIB awaited copies of his record request and the County response. The County was notified on that date.

<https://le.fbi.gov/cjis-division-resources/cjis-security-policy-resource-center>

<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/security/index.html>

I also work with the Sheriff's office on Cybercrimes and execute warrants to search computers and online accounts.

This response was provided to Mr. Merritt. Mr. Merritt then filed a reply with 21 attachments disputing the response from Jasper County.

The original record request from Mr. Merritt was framed as a request for answers to questions or confirmations of statements made by Mr. Merritt. He also requested the identification of certain employees with specific access to electronic communications, not for the records that may have been generated by these Jasper County employees.

Iowa Code section 22.7(50) states that certain records concerning cyber security are confidential:

50. Information and records concerning physical infrastructure, cyber security, critical infrastructure, security procedures or emergency preparedness information developed, maintained, or held by a government body for the protection of life or property, if disclosure could reasonably be expected to jeopardize such life or property.

a. Such information and records include but are not limited to information directly related to vulnerability assessments; information contained in records relating to security measures such as security and response plans, security codes and combinations, passwords, restricted area passes, keys, and security or response procedures; emergency response protocols; and information contained in records that if disclosed would significantly increase the vulnerability of critical physical systems or infrastructures of a government body to attack.

b. For the purpose of this subsection, "cyber security information and records" include but are not limited to information and records relating to cyber security defenses, threats, attacks, or general attempts to attack cyber system operations.

As explained by the County, the release of these records would jeopardize the security of the information maintained by the County. The release of such records could disclose critical infrastructure utilized by the County to protect personal information, medical information, and state and federal laws, rules, and regulations.

Certain parts of the original record request were framed as requests for records. Request 1(b) was provided. Any records responsive to requests 1(a) and 3 are confidential pursuant to Iowa Code section 22.7(50). The County did not violate Iowa Code chapter 22 by withholding this information.

Iowa Code section 23.8 requires that a complaint be within the IPIB's jurisdiction, appear legally sufficient, and have merit before the IPIB accepts a complaint. This complaint does not meet those requirements.

IT IS SO ORDERED: Formal complaint 22FC:0126 is dismissed as legally insufficient and without merit pursuant to Iowa Code section 23.8(2) and Iowa Administrative Rule 497-2.1(2)(b).

Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Rule 497-2.1(3), the IPIB may "delegate acceptance or dismissal of a complaint to the executive director, subject to review by the board." The IPIB will review this Order on March 16, 2023. Pursuant to IPIB rule 497-2.1(4), the parties will be notified in writing of its decision.

By the IPIB Executive Director


Margaret E. Johnson, J.D.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

This document was sent on the 7th day of March, 2023, to:

Michael Merritt
Scott Nicholson, Jasper County Attorney

Attachment
I

On October 18, 2022, Merritt submitted a request to the Jasper County Sheriff's Office to produce a number of records. The records Merritt requested are listed below:

1. Confirmation co.jasper.ia.us is hosted, stored, and preserved at:
Co-jasper-ia.us.mail.protection.outlook.com

Confirmation jasperia.org is hosted, stored, and preserved at:
jasperiaorg.mail.protection.outlook.com

Confirmation jaspercoatty.org is hosted, stored, and preserved at:
Jaspercoattyorg.mail.protection.outlook.com

- a. 12 months of billing records for each of the above-listed commercially hosted cloud-based information system services.
 - b. All Jasper County, IA electronic mail correspondence, including attachments, mentioning Mike Merritt, Mike J Merritt, Mike J. Merritt, Mike James Merritt, Michael Merritt, Michael J Merritt, Michael J. Merritt, Michael James Merritt, Facebook, block, social media, phoenixharbor.com, and castlephoenix.com during 01 JAN 2019 at 0001 local time through 18 OCT 2022 at 2359 local time stored and preserved at the above-listed domains—or at any other maintained automated information system (AIS), information system (IS), or Commercial cloud-based information system belonging to Jasper County, IA.
2. Name and annual income of the Jasper County, IA elected, appointed, contracted, hired employee(s) or authorized users that are authorized to access and maintain the following social media assets:

<https://www.facebook.com/JasperCountyIowa>

<https://www.facebook.com/dougcouplesjaspercountysupervisor>

<https://www.facebook.com/brandontalsmajaspercountysupervisor>

3. Jasper County, IA web traffic history showing elected, appointed, contracted, hired employee(s), or authorized users accessing the following web address (URL) on any maintained domain, automated information system (AIS), information system (IS), or commercial cloud-based information system belonging to Jasper County, IA:

<https://www.facebook.com/JasperCountyIowa>

1. <http://netflix.com>
2. <https://netflix.com>
3. <http://www.netflix.com>
4. <https://www.netflix.com>

5. <http://hulu.com>
6. <https://hulu.com>
7. <http://www.hulu.com>
8. <https://www.hulu.com>
9. <http://hbomax.com>
10. <https://hbomax.com>
11. <http://www.hbomax.com>
12. <https://www.hbomax.com>
13. <http://disneyplus.com>
14. <https://disneyplus.com>
15. <http://www.disneyplus.com>
16. <https://www.disneyplus.com>
17. <http://paramountplus.com>
18. <https://paramountplus.com>
19. <http://www.paramountplus.com>
20. <https://www.paramountplus.com>
21. <http://youtube.com>
22. <https://youtube.com>
23. <http://www.youtube.com>
24. <https://www.youtube.com>
25. <http://music.youtube.com>
26. <https://music.youtube.com>
27. <http://www.music.youtube.com>
28. <https://www.music.youtube.com>
29. <http://spotify.com>
30. <https://spotify.com>
31. <http://www.spotify.com>
32. <https://www.spotify.com>
33. <http://music.apple.com>
34. <https://music.apple.com>
35. <http://www.music.apple.com>
36. <https://www.music.apple.com>
37. <http://music.amazon.com>
38. <https://music.amazon.com>
39. <http://www.music.amazon.com>
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41. <http://xbox.com>
42. <https://xbox.com>
43. <http://www.xbox.com>
44. <https://www.xbox.com>
45. <http://steampowered.com>
46. <https://steampowered.com>
47. <http://www.steampowered.com>
48. <https://www.steampowered.com>

Owner: AG Webteam [AG] </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32ebd113-webteam>
Filename: 708.7.pdf
Last Modified: Fri Apr 21 07:18:37 CDT 2023

708.7 Harassment.

1. *a.* A person commits harassment when, with intent to intimidate, annoy, or alarm another person, the person does any of the following:

(1) Communicates with another by telephone, telegraph, writing, or via electronic communication without legitimate purpose and in a manner likely to cause the other person annoyance or harm.

(2) Places a simulated explosive or simulated incendiary device in or near a building, vehicle, airplane, railroad engine or railroad car, or boat occupied by another person.

(3) Orders merchandise or services in the name of another, or to be delivered to another, without the other person's knowledge or consent.

(4) Reports or causes to be reported false information to a law enforcement authority implicating another in some criminal activity, knowing that the information is false, or reports the alleged occurrence of a criminal act, knowing the act did not occur.

(5) Disseminates, publishes, distributes, posts, or causes to be disseminated, published, distributed, or posted a photograph or film showing another person in a state of full or partial nudity or engaged in a sex act, knowing that the other person has not consented to the dissemination, publication, distribution, or posting.

b. A person commits harassment when the person, purposefully and without legitimate purpose, has personal contact with another person, with the intent to threaten, intimidate, or alarm that other person.

2. *a.* A person commits harassment in the first degree when the person commits harassment involving any of the following:

(1) A threat to commit a forcible felony.

(2) A violation of [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a", subparagraph (5).

(3) Commits harassment and has previously been convicted of harassment three or more times under [this section](#) or any similar statute during the preceding ten years.

(4) Harassment that occurs against another person who is lawfully in a place of public accommodation as defined in [section 216.2](#).

b. Harassment in the first degree is an aggravated misdemeanor.

3. *a.* A person commits harassment in the second degree when the person commits harassment involving a threat to commit bodily injury, or commits harassment and has previously been convicted of harassment two times under [this section](#) or any similar statute during the preceding ten years.

b. Harassment in the second degree is a serious misdemeanor.

4. *a.* Any other act of harassment is harassment in the third degree.

b. Harassment in the third degree is a simple misdemeanor.

5. For purposes of determining whether or not the person should register as a sex offender pursuant to the provisions of [chapter 692A](#), the fact finder shall make a determination as provided in [section 692A.126](#). However, the fact finder shall not make a determination as provided in [section 692A.126](#) regarding a juvenile convicted of a violation of [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a", subparagraph (5), and the juvenile shall not be required to register as a sex offender with regard to the violation.

6. The following do not constitute harassment under [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a", subparagraph (5):

a. A photograph or film involving voluntary exposure by a person in public or commercial settings.

b. Disclosures made in the public interest, including but not limited to the reporting of unlawful conduct, disclosures by law enforcement, news reporting, legal proceeding disclosures, or medical treatment disclosures.

c. Disclosures by an interactive computer service of information provided by another information content provider, as those terms are defined in 47 U.S.C. §230.

7. A person injured by a violation of [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a", subparagraph (4), may bring a civil action against the person whose conduct violated [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a", subparagraph (4).

8. As used in [this section](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

§708.7, ASSAULT

2

a. “*Full or partial nudity*” means the showing of any part of the human genitals or pubic area or buttocks, or any part of the nipple of the breast of a female, with less than fully opaque covering.

b. “*Personal contact*” means an encounter in which two or more people are in visual or physical proximity to each other. “*Personal contact*” does not require a physical touching or oral communication, although it may include these types of contacts.

c. “*Photographs or films*” means the making of any photograph, motion picture film, videotape, or any other recording or transmission of the image of a person.

d. “*Sex act*” means the same as defined in [section 702.17](#).

[C71, 73, 75, 77, §714.37, 714.42; C79, 81, §708.7; 82 Acts, ch 1209, §19]

83 Acts, ch 96, §157, 159; 86 Acts, ch 1238, §28; 87 Acts, ch 13, §4; 89 Acts, ch 226, §1; 94 Acts, ch 1093, §3; 2000 Acts, ch 1132, §3; 2009 Acts, ch 119, §53; 2017 Acts, ch 117, §2; 2021 Acts, ch 101, §1; 2021 Acts, ch 183, §41, 43; 2022 Acts, ch 1032, §106, 111

Referred to in §232.8, 664A.2, 692A.102, 692A.126, 720.7, 901C.3

Harassment with intent to interfere with official judicial acts, see §720.7

Section not amended; section history revised

Owner: AG Webteam [AG] </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32ebd113-webteam>
Filename: Electronic Mail - Ryan Eaton - Jasper County IA - 13 APR 2022.pdf
Last Modified: Fri Apr 21 07:18:37 CDT 2023

RE: Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County, IA - #009/#010/#013/#016

From Ryan Eaton <reaton@jasperia.org>
To Michael J. Merritt <cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com>
CC Scott Nicholson <general@jaspercoatty.org>, Scott Nicholson <snicholson@jaspercoatty.org>, Brandon Talsma <btalsma@jasperia.org>, Doug Cupples <dcupples@jasperia.org>
Date Wednesday, April 12th, 2023 at 6:37 PM

Mr. Merritt,

I did not respond to your ramblings from Monday because I do not begin to understand where you were going with your thought process. So, here is my best guess for answers:

1. You don't like the smell of Jasper county, but your live in Poweshiek so, I guess that is solved?
2. I don't know how Mr. Talsma drives a tractor, but last time I talked to him about farming, he uses GPS integration. The tractors basically drive themselves, so I cannot explain why his rows are crooked. Maybe he needs to download and update. I will pass your concern along. I do wonder why you are watching him?
3. Mr. Cupples has been out of car sales for quite some time, but I will let him know you are thinking of him.
4. I have no idea who "The Babtist standing in dirty water" refers to so, I am unable to share your words with them.
5. I don't really spend any time thinking about you or your somewhat clouded experiences in the Navy were like. I do know several retired Naval people including Master Chiefs. I don't really know what that means but, it sounds impressive.

6. You are correct, I did go to my office and ignore you. I was not really sure how to handle a man with wild hair and in pajamas following me through the courthouse with a camera asking why I am being mean to him. I don't suppose I learned anything. I still would not know how a rational person is supposed to react to that.

7. I don't know or actually care when or why you abused your wife. That seems to have happened in California and a judge or the Navy ruled on that already? I briefly tried to understand in your multiple letters you included me on, but frankly you bounce around so much got lost trying to figure out who the Nazis in Montana are and what they have to do with an email request.

8. I can't dance. Not even a little.

9. The Iowa Public Information Board already ruled, we provided you with a list of who is blocked on 2 of the 10 pages. You are it.

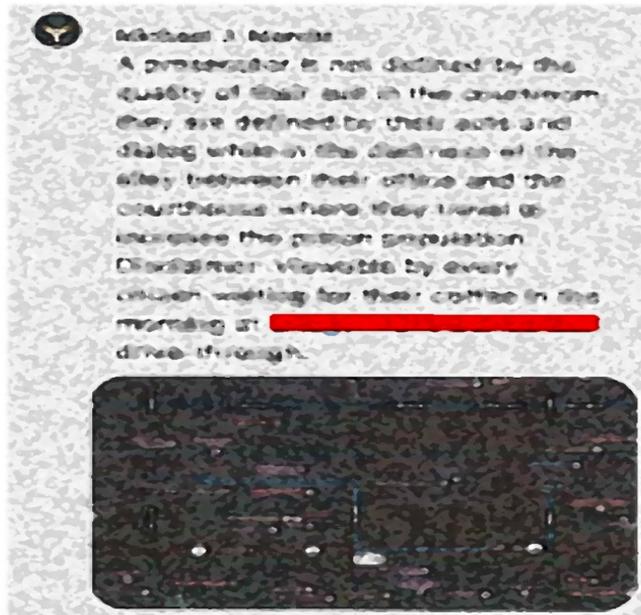
You already let IPIB and a long list of your normal spam recipients know that you are taking us to District Court for blocking you and we are waiting to receive a Subpeona. I will remind you why, since you keep saying "The evidence proves it is a political move to silence you". I get the feeling you really want it to be that, but it is far less complicated.

The day you started stalking county employees and mapping their locations and times, I received several phone calls complaining and asking me to stop it. I untagged the posts and you replied "Nice try" and reapplied them. I contacted Facebook and they suggested I simply block you.

Sorry it does not fit your last 8 months of all these elected officials trying to silence you. It was simply to protect county employees.

Really is came down to economics. It is cheaper for the county to be sued by 1 and explain in court why I took action than to be sued by 9 employees of the office you tagged for ignoring their employee safety complaints.

Here is a obscured image of that particular post.



Now back to the email requests. I did some quick research and Mr Dunwell did not move back to Iowa until 2019 and was not in office until a special election in Oct 2021. Covid-19 delayed his swearing in until 2022. So, your search parameters are invalid. you still have not provided the names of the users emails to search. I gave you the "Actual cost" to perform the search.

Your assessment on the cost is incorrect. While I understand some entities have more basic email systems that you can understand, we have much higher security and encryption set up on each account to meet federal and state requirements. We follow the NIST Principle of Least Privilege (POLP). I must manually allow the E-discovery account access each encrypted box and download gigs of email to a forensic computer to then be searched, reported, then then reviewed and exported.

With 3 staff to support hundreds of employees it can only be done after hours.

You will need to confirm you will pay the those costs with the Attorney's office. Then, as previously explained 3 times now, make a complete request by dates, name of user to search. Please see the IPIB ruling attached.

Finally, per your request, I will no longer be your contact nor will you need to talk to me in the IT role when you can find a ride to Newton. You have all that time I back now. You will resume putting in requests through the County Attorney. You can remove me from future emails or not, I occasionally get time to read them.

Good luck to you and goodbye.

Ryan

PS. You might consider enabling SPF records on your email server so, your emails don't all go to everyone's quarantine and deleted in 3 days.

From: Michael J. Merritt <cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 4:22 PM

To: General Attorney <general@jaspercoatty.org>; Scott Nicholson <snicholson@jaspercoatty.org>; Ryan Eaton <reaton@jasperia.org>

Subject: Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County, IA - #009/#010/#013/#016

[**NOTICE:** This message originated outside of Jasper County -- **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

This document is being served to Jasper County, IA in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22.4.

Iowa Code Chapter 22.4 Public Records Request

(2) "In writing, by telephone, or by electronic means. The lawful custodian of the records shall post information for making such requests in a manner reasonably calculated to apprise the public of that information."

IOWA OPEN RECORDS REQUEST – JASPER COUNTY, IA – #009 – ELIMINATION OF THE FOG OF WAR – #01

IOWA OPEN RECORDS REQUEST – JASPER COUNTY, IA – #010 – ELIMINATION OF THE FOG OF WAR – #02

IOWA OPEN RECORDS REQUEST – JASPER COUNTY, IA – #013 – ELIMINATION OF THE FOG OF WAR – #05

IOWA OPEN RECORDS REQUEST – JASPER COUNTY, IA – #016 – THE FORM OF ATARI – #001

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer

Founder: cipherphoenix.com

Creative Writer/Musician

Information Warfare Specialist

Information Systems Manager

PO BOX 187

Newton, IA 50208

"Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay."

Cipher Hunter

702.28 KB 2 files attached 1 embedded image

image001.jpg 167.84 KB

email-1.2.eml 77.20 KB

V. 3. Brick 21AO0006.pdf 457.24 KB

Owner: AG Webteam [AG] </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32ebd113-webteam>
Filename: Memorandum - ELECTRONIC MAIL BLOCK – JASPER COUNTY IA – USER
REATONJASPERIAORG.pdf
Last Modified: Fri Apr 21 07:18:37 CDT 2023



14 April 2023

MEMORANDUM

From: Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com

To: Jasper County, IA
Jasper County Courthouse
101 1st Street N
Newton, IA 50208

Grinnell, IA Police Department
1020 Spring Street
Grinnell, IA 50112

**Subj: ELECTRONIC MAIL BLOCK - JASPER COUNTY, IA - USER:
REATON@JASPERIA.ORG**

Ref: 1. Title XVI - CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE, Chapter 708 Assault,
Section 708.7 Harassment
2. Title XVI - CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE, Chapter 708 Assault,
Section 708.11 Stalking
3. Title XVI - CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE, Chapter 718 - Offenses
Against the Government, Section 718.6 False reports to or
communications with public safety entities

4. Title XVI - CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE, Chapter 802 - Limitations of Criminal Actions, Section 802.4 Simple misdemeanor - ordinance

5. "Attorney's Office." Staff Directory • Jasper County, IA • CivicEngage, Jasper County, IA,
<https://www.co.jasper.ia.us/Directory.aspx?DID=18>.

Enc: (1.) Electronic Mail - Ryan Eaton - 13 APR 2023

(2.) Iowa Public Information Board Case: 22FC:0126 - Pending Dismissal

(3.) Chest Cam Footage - Michael J. Merritt - Jasper County, IA Sheriffs Department - 13 APR 2023

1. Introduction

Ryan Eaton communicated in electronic mail on 13 APR 2023, *"The day you started stalking county employees and mapping their locations and times, I received several phone calls complaining and asking me to stop it. I untagged the posts and you replied "Nice try" and reapplied them. I contacted Facebook and they suggested I simply block you. Sorry it does not fit your last 8 months of all these elected officials trying to silence you. It was simply to protect county employees. Really is came down to economics. It is cheaper for the county to be sued by 1 and explain in court why I took action than to be sued by 9 employees of the office you tagged for ignoring their employee safety complaints."*; *"I don't know or actually care when or why you abused your wife. That seems to have happened in California and a judge or the Navy ruled on that already? I briefly tried to understand in your multiple letters you included me on, but frankly you bounce around so much got lost trying to figure out who the Nazis in Montana are and what they have to do with an email request."*

2. Electronic Mail Block

Electronic mail accounts located at phoenixharbor.com and related domains have blocked electronic mail from Jasper County, IA user reaton@jasperia.org due to evidence that was received in Enclosure (1.) on 13 APR 2023 that is believed to violate Iowa Code Section 708.7(1.) (a.) (4.) during Iowa Public Information Board case 22FC:0126. Iowa Public Information Board case 22FC:0126 is a complaint against Jasper County, IA, filed by the originator of this correspondence.

3. Conclusion

Upon completing the originator's investigation, a voluntary sworn statement with supporting evidence will be submitted to the Grinnell, IA Police Department within the requirements of Reference (4.).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Merritt". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com

"Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay."

Cipher Hunter

From: AG Webteam [AG]
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32eb
d113-webteam>
To: Bankruptcy, IDR
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=73ee8548cf0a4f22844a235eb778
7b26-idr bankrup>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: DECLARATION AND EVIDENCE OF ATTORNEY MISCONDUCT —
IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION REGULATORY COMPLIANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE
PROCESS MANAGER KAITLIN SMITH
Date: Tue Jun 10 2025 08:50:44 CDT
Attachments: current_complaint_form_July_2018_Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory
Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith.pdf
Declaration - ISCADB Complaint - Kaitlin Smith.pdf

From: Michael J. Merritt <mj.merritt@cipherhunter.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 1:21 AM
To: Smith, Kaitlin [ICRC] <Kaitlin.Smith@iowa.gov>; Stiffler, Kristen [ICRC] <Kristen.Stiffler@iowa.gov>; caitlin.jarzen@iowacourts.gov
Cc: cjones@marshalltown-ia.gov; sheriff@marshallcountya.gov; gnichols@marshalltown-ia.gov; bkell@marshalltown-ia.gov; mfonseca@marshalltown-ia.gov; mladehoff@marshalltown-ia.gov; mayor@marshalltown-ia.gov; jschneider@marshalltown-ia.gov; mmitchell@marshalltown-ia.gov; gthompson@marshalltown-ia.gov; Jordan Gaffney <jgaffney@marshallcountya.gov>; supervisors@marshallcountya.gov; Nan Benson <nbenson@marshallcountya.gov>; melissad@newtongov.org; joelm@newtongov.org; stevem@newtongov.org; evelyng@newtongov.org; randye@newtongov.org; stacys@newtongov.org; markh@newtongov.org; Nicholson, Scott <snicholson@jaspercoatty.org>; matt.brick@brickgentrylaw.com; Eckley, Erika [IPIB] <Erika.Eckley@iowa.gov>; IPIB IPIB <ipib@iowa.gov>; icrc@iowa.gov; Records [IGOV] <Records@governor.iowa.gov>; Bayens, Stephan <bayens@dps.state.ia.us>; AG Webteam [AG] <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>; dcupples@jasperia.org; btalsma@jasperia.org; bshutts@jaspersheriff.org
Subject: DECLARATION AND EVIDENCE OF ATTORNEY MISCONDUCT — IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION REGULATORY COMPLIANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS MANAGER KAITLIN SMITH

Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board:

Attached please find my completed ISCADB complaint form and declaration concerning alleged professional misconduct by Kaitlin Smith, Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager at the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

All referenced evidence is publicly accessible at the following secure URL:

<https://io.phoenixharbor.net/public/grid/0j0u6iLbRX2eRRDSJYAcJ4iLQNpOj8KVb6rEhRnHkT8>
<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fio.phoenixharbor.net%2Fpublic%2Fgrid%2F0j0u6iLbRX2eRRDSJYAcJ4iLQNpOj8KVb6rEhRnHkT8&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf95fd92417b74260da3608dda7e6fac5%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638851332853545629%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dEfWfBLgJbB3h5V1jo1OXLQIzL0em%2FpUGuLG1G5OE24%3D&reserved=0>>

A hard copy of the complaint and declaration will be delivered via USPS Priority Mail, along with a thumb drive containing all 14 attachments.

This matter is deeply personal. The ongoing ethical failures I have tracked and documented across legal communities in Iowa and California have contributed directly to the destruction of my family, the loss of personal joy, and a disconnection from life itself. My commitment in submitting this complaint is to ensure that no other parent or child suffers the same institutional failures my children have endured.

I am committed to seeing this resolved through lawful means with unyielding resolve.

The Form of the Constitutional Fleet Reserve

https://youtu.be/UVRUxtPKK-w?si=BNNqfHQGOAg_bB9q <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FUVRUxtPKK-w%3Fsi%3DBNNqfHQGOAg_bB9q&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf95fd92417b74260da3608dda7e6fac5%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638851332853573596%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yqsdH7TvcNetMFRfAEFUvDT6Q2E%2F0rY3EF7sIPvGG3U%3D&reserved=0>

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN (Ret.)

Founder, Cipher Hunter

Information Warfare Specialist

Information Systems Manager

2510 S 6th St. D24

Marshalltown, IA 50158

(641) 387-9935

✉ mj.merritt@cipherhunter.net <mailto:mj.merritt@cipherhunter.net>

[cipherhunter.net](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcipherhunter.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf95fd92417b74260da3608dda7e6fac5%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638851332853587724%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YTFYouey8bpxZSgkWX56PVXmRyK4hZ2talTCxHkb7o4%3D&reserved=0) <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcipherhunter.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf95fd92417b74260da3608dda7e6fac5%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638851332853587724%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YTFYouey8bpxZSgkWX56PVXmRyK4hZ2talTCxHkb7o4%3D&reserved=0>>

“Tyranny breeds within government infrastructure that does not provide information with the same freedoms, rights, and liberties as the citizens who produced it.”

Legal Disclaimer: Cipher Hunter <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcipherhunter.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf95fd92417b74260da3608dda7e6fac5%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638851332853600519%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bWt6l8R4z4v8DuSFg%2BTQqIn6zhxQX%2FHh4gvL98KFGDs%3D&reserved=0>> (2025-00002035) is a registered trade name in Marshall County, IA. Cipher Hunter <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcipherhunter.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf95fd92417b74260da3608dda7e6fac5%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638851332853600519%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bWt6l8R4z4v8DuSFg%2BTQqIn6zhxQX%2FHh4gvL98KFGDs%3D&reserved=0>>

7C1%7C638851332853614795%7CUnknown%
7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUslYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilsl
kFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%
7C&sdata=g3KA6oRxBHHNQLnlz%2B6uOSdsrkHUIUE401vmWO72mLk%3D&reserved=0>
is a division within the Phoenix Harbor <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fphoenixharbor.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf95fd92417b74260da3608dda7e6fac5%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638851332853630600%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUslYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JYrtPfj96K3JfQ8wRiKncmz%2F%2FofQLsyxwulRCpNHQdl%3D&reserved=0>>
network of web properties.

Owner: AG Webteam [AG] </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32ebd113-webteam>
Filename: current_complaint_form_July_2018_Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory
Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith.pdf
Last Modified: Tue Jun 10 08:50:44 CDT 2025

Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board Complaint Form

Complete a separate form for each attorney with whom you have a complaint.

<i>Your name</i> Michael J. Merritt		<i>E-mail address</i> mj.merritt@cipherhunter.net	
<i>Street Address</i> 2510 S 6th St, D24	<i>City</i> Marshalltown	<i>State</i> IA	<i>ZIP code</i> 50158
<i>Home phone</i> N/A	<i>Cell phone</i> 641-387-9935	<i>Business phone</i> N/A	

Name of attorney about whom you are complaining: Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith			
<i>Business address</i> 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100	<i>City</i> Des Moines	<i>State</i> IA	<i>ZIP code</i> 50321-1270
<i>Business phone</i> 515-281-4121			

Did you hire the attorney? <i>Check one</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when did you hire the attorney?	
If no, what is your connection to the attorney? Iowa Civil Rights Commission Complaint: CP#10-23-80682/Records Request	

If your complaint is about a lawsuit or court case, answer the following:	
A.	Name of court: <i>Examples: Iowa District Court for Polk County; United States District Court for Northern District of Iowa</i>
B.	Case title: <i>Examples: Smith vs. Jones; State vs. Doe</i>
C.	Case number:

Type or write neatly on one or more separate sheets of paper a detailed factual statement of what the attorney did or did not do. Return the sheet(s) with this form. Write on only one side of the complaint form and the additional sheets of paper. Attach copies of documents that prove or help to explain your complaint, such as fee agreements, letters, checks, receipts, itemized billings, and court papers. Send only copies, not original documents, as we are not able to return your documents to you.

In filing this complaint, you are waiving confidentiality and attorney-client privileges, if any, between you and the attorney named above. This waiver allows the attorney to disclose your confidential information to the extent reasonably necessary to respond to the complaint.

Oath and Signature			
I, <u>Michael J. Merritt</u> (<i>print your name</i>), certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the State of Iowa that the allegations of this complaint are true and correct.			
<i>Month</i> June	<i>Day</i> 10	<i>Year</i> 2025	<i>Your Signature</i> 

Send the completed form to: <i>(form current as of 4/1/2016, see Iowa Court Rule 35.15)</i>	Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board Iowa Judicial Branch Building 1111 East Court Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50319 Telephone (515) 348-4680
--	---

Owner: AG Webteam [AG] </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=4419cf4d153f4523bb9ac77a32ebd113-webteam>
Filename: Declaration - ISCADB Complaint - Kaitlin Smith.pdf
Last Modified: Tue Jun 10 08:50:44 CDT 2025

IOWA SUPREME COURT ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

<p>Cipher Hunter Complainant, vs. Kaitlin Smith, Respondent.</p>	<p>Case No.: Pending Assignment</p> <p>DECLARATION AND EVIDENCE OF ATTORNEY MISCONDUCT — IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION REGULATORY COMPLIANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS MANAGER KAITLIN SMITH</p>
---	---

COMES NOW Pro Se Michael J. Merritt for Complainant Cipher Hunter, in this matter before the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board. Respectfully requesting review of the below testimony and evidence in accordance with Iowa Rules of the Court Chapter 32 and 35.

I. PARTIES

1. Petitioner, Cipher Hunter, is a civic transparency and records research initiative focused on the protection of civil liberties and governmental accountability registered in Marshall County, Iowa, and managed by Michael J. Merritt. Mr. Merritt is a retired U.S. Navy veteran, information warfare specialist, and public records' researcher. He is also an advocate for domestic violence survivors, individuals living with mental health disabilities, and veterans affected by military sexual trauma (MST).
 2. Respondent, Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith, is a Public Service Manager 2 within the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.
-

II. CAUSE OF ACTION

1. **32:8.4(d)** — “engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice;” — Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith allegedly failed to release the case file for CP#10-23-80682 despite receiving the “Request for Administrative Release (Right-to-Sue)” declaration. (See Attachments 8, 9, 10, 12, and 14).
2. **32:8.4(d)** — “engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice;” — Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith allegedly misrepresented available public records and failed to release the requested public records (See Attachments 11 and 13).
3. **32:4.4(a.)** — “In representing a client, a lawyer shall not use means that have no substantial purpose other than to embarrass, delay, or burden a third person, or use methods of obtaining evidence that violate the legal rights of such a person.” — Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith allegedly failed to release the case file for CP#10-23-80682 despite receiving the “Request for Administrative Release (Right-to-Sue)” declaration. (See Attachments 8, 9, 10, 12, and 14).
4. **32:4.4(a.)** — “In representing a client, a lawyer shall not use means that have no substantial purpose other than to embarrass, delay, or burden a third person, or use methods of obtaining evidence that violate the legal rights of such a person.” — Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith allegedly misrepresented available public records and failed to release the requested public records (See Attachments 11 and 13).
5. **32:8.4(a.)** — “violate or attempt to violate the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another;” —

This complaint alleges Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith has engaged in conduct supporting four distinct violations of the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct as supported by the testimony and evidence within this complaint.

III. FACTS AND BACKGROUND

The Complainant communicated on 01 MAY 2025 (See Attachment 8, Electronic Mail — Michael J Merritt — 01 MAY 2025 — 1815) his intention to investigate the evidence supporting the Iowa Civil Rights Commission’s failure to properly implement Iowa Code §§ 216.5(1) and 216.5(3) which mandate prompt and impartial investigation of civil rights complaints during case CP#10-23-80682. The timeline of evidence submitted within this complaint supports the Iowa Civil Rights Commission’s alleged failure to properly locate and release requested public records as required by Iowa Code Chapter 22 and release the requested case file for CP#10-23-80682 pursuant to Iowa Code § 216.5(17).

Timeline of Events

Each of the following events corresponds to a documented attachment and supports the foundation for the alleged Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct violations outlined in Section II.

1. **11-12 JUL 2023** – On 11 JUL 2023, Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckley communicated, *“His emails are getting more and more prolific (maybe I just had a reprieve for a couple months) and quite frankly, I have some cyber security concerns with his links and attachments. I especially worry about this database he is building which sounds like he is trying to be able to search all of the electronic records for all these entities or that it could create some security risks if he collects information about where and how records are stored online. I don’t know if he is capable of collecting such*

information or if this is part of some of his mental health issues.” On 12 JUL 2023, Iowa Public Information Board Chairman Julie Pottorff communicated, “I think it’s probably related to mental health issues. But you might call the Department of Public Safety and ask to talk to someone about your concerns. Someone in that department should be able to give you advice about dealing with him and should know whether any investigation into his activities is warranted. If investigation is warranted, the Department of Public Safety should handle it.” (See Attachment 1, Electronic Mail – Iowa Public Information Board – Combined – 11-12 JUL 2023 – 1458).

2. **13-14 JUL 2023** – On 13 JUL 2023, Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckely communicated to the Iowa Department of Public Safety, *“I am uncertain if this is the appropriate division or if there is a better place to reach out for some assistance, so please let me know if there is. Michael Merritt communicates almost on a daily basis with IPIB in the fashion similar to below. (This is actually much shorter and lucid than most.) I have some cyber security concerns with his links and attachments. I especially worry about this database he says he is building which sounds like he is trying to be able to search all of the electronic records for all these entities or that it could create some security risks if he collects information about where and how records are stored online. I don't know if he is capable of collecting such information or if this is part of some of his mental health issues. He has said that he had extensive computer and networking experience in the Navy. I do know that he makes prolific requests to cities and counties and many requests address emails and information related to their email systems, so it is possible he is gathering information that would be useful for such purposes. IPIB does not seem to have any authority or ability to address anything like this, so I am asking for any guidance or assistance you can provide on what limits we should put to ensure protection for government entities. It is possible that this is not anything that I need to*

worry about, if so, please let me know that as well. Thank you for any assistance or direction you can provide.” On 14 JUL 2023, State of Iowa Criminal Intelligence Analyst Nicole Roberts communicated to Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckley, “Good Morning – The below email was received. We have shared this information with OCIO and the Iowa State Patrol for their awareness. Cyber related concerns can be directed to can be directed to OCIO also in the future: <https://ocio.iowa.gov/> Thanks, Nikki” (See Attachment 2, Electronic Mail — Nicole Roberts – 14 JUL 2023 – 1103).

3. **20 JUL 2023** – Iowa Public Information Board 20 JUL 2023 Public Meeting (See Attachment 3, Chest Camera – Iowa Public Information Board Public Meeting – 20 July 2023).
4. **08 AUG 2023** – Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckley communicated to the State of Iowa Chief Information Officer, “I am not certain if this is anything that you all can address or need to address, but I have ongoing concerns regarding the activity from Mr. Merritt. I sent some information to public safety, but they suggested I contact OCIO. Mr. Merritt is making 1000s of records requests to government entities. He has a right to do that. The concern I have is that he has stated that he wants to develop a database of the government email systems etc. I know he is prolific in his postings online, and I am not sure how much information he has gathered or what he has posted that could potentially create risks and vulnerabilities to government entities. He continues to tout his military training in data security, so I am certain he is able to pull quite a bit of information from his requests. I have concerns about the scope of what is being collected and potential harm that could be done if there is a database that shares information that could be useful to others to harm these government systems if bad actors were able to use the information to insert malware or ransomware. If there is no concern, then please let me know. If there is concern, then any recommendations you have to assist

in educating entities about how to respond to requests for emails and data information or what to retain for security would be much appreciated. Thank you for your time.” (See Attachment 4, Electronic Mail – Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Eckley – 08 AUG 2023 — 1551).

5. **22 AUG 2023** – Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Eckley communicated, *“The Iowa Public Information Board is not able to accept any of the 35 complaints filed at 3:48 a.m. on August 11, 2023. In reviewing the seemingly **auto-generated** and batched complaints, there is no evidence that any government entity has refused to comply with the request as made. There is also no evidence that the requests have even be received by the entities. You have withdrawn your complaints against the Iowa Department of the Blind and the Iowa Secretary of State’s office, the remaining 33 complaints are dismissed as failing to allege a violation of Iowa Code Chapter 22.”* (See Attachment 5, Memorandum - Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckley - 22 AUG 2023).
6. **15 SEP 2023** – *“Erika Eckley, the board’s executive director, told the committee the proposed legislation is intended to address what she called “excessive and abusive” requests for information. ”, “We’ve had some issues with individuals filing hundreds of requests and engaging in abuse – what many would consider abusive and harassing conduct related to those,” Eckley told the committee. “And so looking at it there’s not a lot that individuals can do if they’re in that situation. There’s very little that they can do other than to continue to just take the harassment and continue to have to review the information from that individual to make sure they are complying with their (Open Records Law) requirements.”, “I’m not sure if it’s 100 for one specific agency, but there have been hundreds sent out by — across the state — quite extensive,” she said. She added that she has “become aware of an individual basically **automating** across all*

counties, all school boards, all cities, and such, seeking extensive records and then the communications after that can be quite abusive and harassing.”, “Eckley declined to identify the person who is making the **“automated”** requests and abusive comments, although she acknowledged the records requests are, themselves, considered to be public documents in Iowa”, “I don’t feel comfortable sharing the individual’s name,” she said. “This isn’t just one person, but this is — I mean, it was brought up because of that situation, but this is, I don’t believe this is a one-person issue.”, “She said the proposed legislation was composed at her own initiative and that no city, county or state officials had suggested she draft such a bill. “I brought up the potential issue to look at as something within our scope if there’s issues within the public records for our board to look at and consider if there’s anything we need to do or not,” she said.”, “When asked about that at Friday’s meeting, Eckley said the issue before the board has more to do with “the conduct” of the people requesting the records than with the requests themselves. “I guess that the purpose (of the draft legislation) is to look at if there are ways that we can prevent front-line employees from significant harassing behavior or other things that make it so that they’re not able to do the job, their main job for government,” she said. “It’s not to prevent individuals from filing requests. It’s to address those extreme cases.” (See Attachment 6, News Article – Iowa Capital Dispatch – 15 SEP 2023).

7. **22 SEP 2023** – “A Navy veteran who says he has PTSD is the man responsible for triggering proposed new restrictions on Iowans’ access to government documents.”, “The individual, Michael J. Merritt of Newton, calls himself “Cipher Hunter” and describes himself as a “creative writer/musician and information warfare specialist.”, “He wrote to one state official earlier this year and explained that he had “been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder related to multiple false allegations of criminal conduct going back to January 2017.”, “Last month, he filed almost three dozen complaints with

the Iowa Public Information Board, each alleging violations of Iowa's Open Records Law. Merritt's actions prompted IPIB's executive director to urge the board to take action, calling it a "potential immediate crisis" that could quickly consume all of IPIB's resources by forcing the board to investigate each of Merritt's complaints. Within days, IPIB quickly rejected all of Merritt's complaints, but then began considering proposed legislation that would enable state agencies, as well as Iowa's cities, counties and school districts, to ignore for up to one year any public-records requests generated by individuals deemed by the board to be the work of a "vexatious requester." IPIB Executive Director Erika Eckley has said that while the proposed bill was prompted by the actions of one individual, she believes it's not "a one-person issue" in Iowa. The Iowa Capital Dispatch was unable to reach Merritt for comment.", "Some board members have already expressed reservations with the proposal, noting that government agencies can pursue harassment charges or seek injunctive relief through the civil courts.", "In July, Merritt sent Eckley an email with the subject header "The Form of the Flying Dutchman," announcing his plans to donate to the state a database he had created showing where all state and local government agencies electronically store and preserve public documents. In the email, which was copied to dozens of other public officials, Merritt said he had compiled the database while being treated for PTSD.", "Pottorff responded by indicating Merritt's actions were "probably related to his mental health issues" and suggested Eckley consult with the Iowa Department of Public Safety.", "Days later, Eckley wrote to the state's Office of Chief Information Officer to express "ongoing concerns regarding the activity from Mr. Merritt." Eckley wrote that "Merritt is making 1000s of records requests to government entities. He has a right to do that. The concern I have is that he has stated he wants to develop a database of the government email systems, etc." She wrote that she was concerned about the "potential harm that could be done if there is a database that

*shares information that could be useful to others to harm these government systems if bad actors were able to use the information to insert malware of ransomware.”, “**At one point he told me he was going to develop a database of information to make request to government entities easier – particularly how they store emails,” Eckley told the board members.** “I am not sure his actions are meant to be a cybersecurity threat, but he could be creating information that others could use for attacks.” She warned of a “potential immediate crisis” that would have a direct impact on her own office, which works to resolve disputes over public-records requests. “This has ballooned into something that could consume all of the IPIB resources ... **if we have to open a complaint for every allegation he makes in regards to his voluminous and indecipherable requests.**” (See Attachment 7, News Article – Iowa Capital Dispatch – 22 SEP 2023).*

8. **01 MAY 2025** – Michael J. Merritt communicated to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, *“Attached is the requested declaration.”, “The people of the State of Iowa deserve to live in a world that acknowledges their grievances regarding evidence of discrimination that violates Iowa Code Chapter 216. Suppose the evidence indicates this board fails to manifest proper civil rights protections within the State of Iowa. In that case, I will lawfully work to see that they have it. Please provide the names and positions, including the executive director, of all personnel within the Iowa Civil Rights Commission who handled my complaint and are licensed by the Iowa Court.”* (See Attachment 8, Electronic Mail – Michael J Merritt – 01 MAY 2025 – 1815).

9. **13 MAY 2025** – Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith communicated to Michael J. Merritt, after being electronically provided a copy of the *“Request for Administrative Release (Right-to-Sue),” “The Iowa Office of Civil Rights has received your records request filed May 1, 2025. As an initial matter, under Iowa Code section 216.15(5), the civil rights*

commission is prohibited from disclosing the filing of civil rights complaints, as well as information connected to those complaints. Therefore, members of the public are not able to access the agency's case files through open records requests. However, as a person who has filed a complaint, you are able to get a copy of your own case file outside of the open records process. To do this, you would need to request a right to sue letter and copy of your case file by emailing those requests to icrc@iowa.gov or by responding to me making that request. There is no cost for obtaining a digital copy of your case file.” (See Attachment 9, Electronic Mail – Kaitlin Smith – 13 MAY 2025 – 1537).

10. **05 JUN 2025** – Michael J. Merritt communicated to Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith, *“I would like to respectfully redirect your attention to my 01 MAY 2025 electronic mail below that included the requested declaration for my case against the Iowa Public Information Board. I am also requesting to know if my case against Poweshiek County, IA, also qualifies for a right to sue declaration submission. Suppose it does qualify in that case; please provide the required case number information so I can prepare a right to sue letter for that case as well.”* (See Attachment 10, Electronic Mail – Michael J Merritt – 05 JUN 2025 – 1754).

11. **05 JUN 2025** – Michael J. Merritt requested the Iowa Civil Rights Commission provide individual electronic mail copies of a nine section email public records request thread sent to various State and local government bodies during 2024 (including the Iowa Civil Rights Commission). This request included a copy of the record provided by the Iowa Public Information Board in a previous records request verifying the State of Iowa has a copy of the requested record. The Iowa Civil Rights Commission was requested to provide this record because the Complainant in this case has experienced nothing but evidence of discrimination, criminalization, and unethical conduct not consistent with the

Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct from the Iowa Public Information Board. (See Attachment 11, Electronic Mail – Michael J. Merritt – 05 JUN 2025 – 1812).

12. **06 JUN 2025** – Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith communicated to Michael J. Merritt, *“I responded to your request on May 13, 2025. Please let me know if you would like me to resend that response to you. The complaint you filed against Poweshiek County is CP# 07-24-82277, and you have until 1/30/2027 to request a letter of right-to-sue.”* (See Attachment 12, Electronic Mail – Kaitlin Smith – 06 JUN 2025 – 0840).
13. **06 JUN 2025** – Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith communicated to Michael J. Merritt, *“Based on my review of your email and attachment, the Iowa Office of Civil Rights does not have any responsive records. If you would like to make a more specific request, I would be happy to review it.”* (See Attachment 13, Electronic Mail – Kaitlin Smith – 06 JUN 2025 – 1313).
14. **06 JUN 2025** – After evidence of numerous delays and misrepresentations of available public record by the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. The Complainant initiated the drafting and submission of legal documents in accordance with the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct regarding the evidence of delay an unnecessary burden imposed by the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. (See Attachment 14, Electronic Mail – Michael J. Merritt – 06 JUN 2025 – 1521).

IV. ATTACHMENTS

1. Electronic Mail – Iowa Public Information Board — Combined – 11-12 JUL 2023 —
1458

2. Electronic Mail — Nicole Roberts — 14 JUL 2023 — 1103
 3. Chest Camera – Iowa Public Information Board Public Meeting – 20 July 2023
 4. Electronic Mail — Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Eckley — 08 AUG 2023 — 1551
 5. Memorandum — Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckley — 22 AUG 2023
 6. News Article — Iowa Capital Dispatch — 15 SEP 2023
 7. News Article — Iowa Capital Dispatch — 22 SEP 2023
 8. Electronic Mail — Michael J Merritt — 01 MAY 2025 — 1815
 9. Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 13 MAY 2025 — 1537
 10. Electronic Mail — Michael J Merritt — 05 JUN 2025 — 1754
 11. Electronic Mail — Michael J. Merritt — 05 JUN 2025 — 1812
 12. Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 06 JUN 2025 — 0840
 13. Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 06 JUN 2025 — 1313
 14. Electronic Mail — Michael J. Merritt — 06 JUN 2025 — 1521
-

V. ANALYSIS

Despite clear email documentation from May and June 2025, Kaitlin Smith has repeatedly denied receiving the “*Request for Administrative Release (Right-to-Sue)*” declaration (See Attachments 9 — Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 13 MAY 2025 — 1537 and Attachment 12 — Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 06 JUN 2025 — 0840), even though Attachments 8 — Electronic Mail — Michael J Merritt — 01 MAY 2025 — 1815 and 10 — Electronic Mail — Michael J Merritt — 05 JUN 2025 — 1754 confirm that these declarations were submitted in accordance with the proper administrative procedures to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

When viewed in light of Ms. Smith’s legal background and her responsibilities as a State of Iowa Public Service Manager 2— these events may constitute a potential violation regarding willful misrepresentation and improper delay, potentially infringing upon the complainant’s statutory rights.

The evidence demonstrates a consistent pattern during Iowa Civil Rights Commission case CP#10-23-80682 and the commission's subsequent handling of administrative procedure pursuant to Iowa Code § 216.5(17) of improper diligence and obstruction.

Additionally, the Iowa Civil Rights Commission was asked to produce nine specific emails. Attachment 11 — Electronic Mail — Michael J. Merritt — 05 JUN 2025 — 1812, provides evidence that the State of Iowa continues to store and preserve these records—inconsistent with Ms. Smith’s representations in Attachment 13 — Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 06 JUN 2025 — 1313, that no such emails exist. To verify this inconsistency, the Complainant will be submitting identical records requests to other Iowa state agencies that host their email systems through the iowa.gov domain. This will assist the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board in determining whether Ms. Smith knowingly misrepresented the existence of public records in violation of Iowa Code Chapter 22 and the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Taken together, the documented facts and statutory violations form a pattern of conduct that cannot be dismissed as isolated oversights. Rather, they represent a systemic breach of public trust.

VI. CONCLUSION

This matter implicates not only the operational integrity of a key state agency, but the ethical

standards by which this Court vests public trust in its licensees. The conduct of Iowa Civil Rights Commission Public Service Manager Kaitlin Smith constitutes a serious breach of professional responsibility, meriting immediate investigation by the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board. This matter implicates not only the credibility of a state agency but also the standards of integrity governing the Iowa Bar and the Court's licensing authority.

The record reflects that the Iowa Civil Rights Commission failed to fulfill its statutory obligations under Iowa Code §§ 216.5(1) and 216.5(3), which require prompt, fair, and impartial investigation of civil rights complaints. Instead, the Commission dismissed case CP#10-23-80682 without addressing the core evidence presented (See Attachment 1, Electronic Mail — Iowa Public Information Board — Combined — 11-12 JUL 2023 -1458), and without acknowledging or processing the Complainant's "Request for Administrative Release (Right-to-Sue)." These failures—especially in concert—raise substantial concerns that the omissions were not accidental, but strategically calculated to delay or obstruct lawful litigation against another Iowa agency.

Moreover, the Iowa Supreme Court has communicated regarding Iowa Code Chapter 22 "*The purpose of the statute is to open the doors of government to public scrutiny [and] to prevent government from secreting its decision-making activities from the public, on whose behalf it is its duty to act.*" ' "Diercks, 806 N.W.2d at 652 (quoting Rathmann v. Bd. of Dirs., 580 N.W.2d 773, 777 (Iowa 1998)). " 'Accordingly, there is a presumption of openness and disclosure under this chapter.' " *Id.* (quoting Gabrilson v. Flynn, 554 N.W.2d 267, 271 (Iowa 1996)).

This is not merely a guiding principle—it is binding law. Kaitlin Smith's conduct, as detailed in this declaration, cannot be reconciled with that mandate. The record supports a finding that her actions violate both Iowa statutory law and the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct, and directly contradict Iowa's constitutional commitments to transparency and civil rights protection.

Ms. Smith's failure to uphold her duties under Iowa Code Chapters 22 and 216 reflects not only

on her personal conduct, but also on the institutional posture of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. If left unaddressed, this matter would cast serious doubt on the Court's commitment to holding its licensees to meaningful standards of legal and ethical accountability.

Accordingly, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board initiate a formal review of Kaitlin Smith's conduct. This is not merely a request for disciplinary review—it is an affirmation that legal licensure in Iowa demands fidelity to law, transparency, and justice.

Fiat justitia ruat caelum

I certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the state of Iowa that the preceding is true and correct.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Michael J. Merritt

Michael J. Merritt
Founder, Cipher Hunter
2510 S 6th St. D24
Marshalltown, IA 50158
Telephone: (641)-387-9935
Email: mj.merritt@cipherhunter.net
Pro Se for Cipher Hunter

From: AG Webteam [AG] <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>
To: Bankruptcy, IDR
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=73ee8548cf0a4f22844a235eb778
7b26-idr bankrup>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: DECLARATION AND EVIDENCE OF ATTORNEY MISCONDUCT —
IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION REGULATORY COMPLIANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE
PROCESS MANAGER KAITLIN SMITH
Date: Tue Jun 10 2025 08:50:44 CDT
Attachments: current_complaint_form_July_2018_Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory
Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith.pdf
Declaration - ISCADB Complaint - Kaitlin Smith.pdf

From: Michael J. Merritt <mj.merritt@cipherhunter.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 1:21 AM
To: Smith, Kaitlin [ICRC] <Kaitlin.Smith@iowa.gov>; Stiffler, Kristen [ICRC] <Kristen.Stiffler@iowa.gov>; caitlin.jarzen@iowacourts.gov
Cc: cjones@marshalltown-ia.gov; sheriff@marshallcountya.gov; gnichols@marshalltown-ia.gov; bkell@marshalltown-ia.gov; mfonseca@marshalltown-ia.gov; mladehoff@marshalltown-ia.gov; mayor@marshalltown-ia.gov; jschneider@marshalltown-ia.gov; mmitchell@marshalltown-ia.gov; gthompson@marshalltown-ia.gov; Jordan Gaffney <jgaffney@marshallcountya.gov>; supervisors@marshallcountya.gov; Nan Benson <nbenson@marshallcountya.gov>; melissad@newtongov.org; joelm@newtongov.org; stevem@newtongov.org; evelyng@newtongov.org; randye@newtongov.org; stacys@newtongov.org; markh@newtongov.org; Nicholson, Scott <snicholson@jaspercoatty.org>; matt.brick@brickgentrylaw.com; Eckley, Erika [IPIB] <Erika.Eckley@iowa.gov>; IPIB IPIB <ipib@iowa.gov>; icrc@iowa.gov; Records [IGOV] <Records@governor.iowa.gov>; Bayens, Stephan <bayens@dps.state.ia.us>; AG Webteam [AG] <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>; dcupples@jasperia.org; btalsma@jasperia.org; bshutts@jaspersheriff.org
Subject: DECLARATION AND EVIDENCE OF ATTORNEY MISCONDUCT — IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION REGULATORY COMPLIANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS MANAGER KAITLIN SMITH

Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board:

Attached please find my completed ISCADB complaint form and declaration concerning alleged professional misconduct by Kaitlin Smith, Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager at the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

All referenced evidence is publicly accessible at the following secure URL:

<https://io.phoenixharbor.net/public/grid/0j0u6iLbRX2eRRDSJYAcJ4iLQNpOj8KVb6rEhRnHkT8>
<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fio.phoenixharbor.net%2Fpublic%2Fgrid%2F0j0u6iLbRX2eRRDSJYAcJ4iLQNpOj8KVb6rEhRnHkT8&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf95fd92417b74260da3608dda7e6fac5%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638851332853545629%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dEfWfBLgJbB3h5V1jo1OXLQlzL0em%2FpUGuLG1G5OE24%3D&reserved=0>>

A hard copy of the complaint and declaration will be delivered via USPS Priority Mail, along with a thumb drive containing all 14 attachments.

This matter is deeply personal. The ongoing ethical failures I have tracked and documented across legal communities in Iowa and California have contributed directly to the destruction of my family, the loss of personal joy, and a disconnection from life itself. My commitment in submitting this complaint is to ensure that no other parent or child suffers the same institutional failures my children have endured.

I am committed to seeing this resolved through lawful means with unyielding resolve.

The Form of the Constitutional Fleet Reserve

https://youtu.be/UVRUxtPKK-w?si=BNNqfHQGOAg_bB9q <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FUVRUxtPKK-w%3Fsi%3DBNNqfHQGOAg_bB9q&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf95fd92417b74260da3608dda7e6fac5%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638851332853573596%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yqsdH7TvcNetMFRfAEFUvDT6Q2E%2F0rY3EF7sIPvGG3U%3D&reserved=0>

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN (Ret.)

Founder, Cipher Hunter

Information Warfare Specialist

Information Systems Manager

2510 S 6th St. D24

Marshalltown, IA 50158

(641) 387-9935

✉ mj.merritt@cipherhunter.net <<mailto:mj.merritt@cipherhunter.net>>

[cipherhunter.net](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcipherhunter.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf95fd92417b74260da3608dda7e6fac5%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638851332853587724%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YTFYyouey8bXPzSgkWx56PVXmRyK4hZ2taITCxBkb7o4%3D&reserved=0) <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcipherhunter.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf95fd92417b74260da3608dda7e6fac5%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638851332853587724%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YTFYyouey8bXPzSgkWx56PVXmRyK4hZ2taITCxBkb7o4%3D&reserved=0>>

“Tyranny breeds within government infrastructure that does not provide information with the same freedoms, rights, and liberties as the citizens who produced it.”

Legal Disclaimer: Cipher Hunter <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcipherhunter.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf95fd92417b74260da3608dda7e6fac5%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638851332853600519%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bWt6l8R4z4v8DuSFg%2BTQqIn6zhxQX%2FHh4gvL98KFGDs%3D&reserved=0>> (2025-00002035) is a registered trade name in Marshall County, IA. Cipher Hunter <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcipherhunter.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf95fd92417b74260da3608dda7e6fac5%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638851332853614795%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bWt6l8R4z4v8DuSFg%2BTQqIn6zhxQX%2FHh4gvL98KFGDs%3D&reserved=0>>

7C&sdata=g3KA6oRxBHHNQLnlz%2B6uOSdsrkHUIUE401vmWO72mLk%3D&reserved=0>
is a division within the Phoenix Harbor <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fphoenixharbor.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7Cf95fd92417b74260da3608dda7e6fac5%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638851332853630600%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JYrtPj96K3JfQ8wRiKncmz%2F%2FOfQLsyxwuIRCpNHQdl%3D&reserved=0>>
network of web properties.

Owner: AG Webteam [AG] <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>
Filename: current_complaint_form_July_2018_Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory
Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith.pdf
Last Modified: Tue Jun 10 08:50:44 CDT 2025

Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board Complaint Form

Complete a separate form for each attorney with whom you have a complaint.

<i>Your name</i> Michael J. Merritt		<i>E-mail address</i> mj.merritt@cipherhunter.net	
<i>Street Address</i> 2510 S 6th St, D24	<i>City</i> Marshalltown	<i>State</i> IA	<i>ZIP code</i> 50158
<i>Home phone</i> N/A	<i>Cell phone</i> 641-387-9935	<i>Business phone</i> N/A	

Name of attorney about whom you are complaining: Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith			
<i>Business address</i> 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100	<i>City</i> Des Moines	<i>State</i> IA	<i>ZIP code</i> 50321-1270
<i>Business phone</i> 515-281-4121			

Did you hire the attorney? <i>Check one</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when did you hire the attorney?	
If no, what is your connection to the attorney? Iowa Civil Rights Commission Complaint: CP#10-23-80682/Records Request	

If your complaint is about a lawsuit or court case, answer the following:	
A.	Name of court: <i>Examples: Iowa District Court for Polk County; United States District Court for Northern District of Iowa</i>
B.	Case title: <i>Examples: Smith vs. Jones; State vs. Doe</i>
C.	Case number:

Type or write neatly on one or more separate sheets of paper a detailed factual statement of what the attorney did or did not do. Return the sheet(s) with this form. Write on only one side of the complaint form and the additional sheets of paper. Attach copies of documents that prove or help to explain your complaint, such as fee agreements, letters, checks, receipts, itemized billings, and court papers. Send only copies, not original documents, as we are not able to return your documents to you.

In filing this complaint, you are waiving confidentiality and attorney-client privileges, if any, between you and the attorney named above. This waiver allows the attorney to disclose your confidential information to the extent reasonably necessary to respond to the complaint.

Oath and Signature			
I, <u>Michael J. Merritt</u> (<i>print your name</i>), certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the State of Iowa that the allegations of this complaint are true and correct.			
<i>Month</i> June	<i>Day</i> 10	<i>Year</i> 2025	<i>Your Signature</i> 

Send the completed form to: <i>(form current as of 4/1/2016, see Iowa Court Rule 35.15)</i>	Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board Iowa Judicial Branch Building 1111 East Court Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50319 Telephone (515) 348-4680
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Owner: AG Webteam [AG] <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>
Filename: Declaration - ISCADB Complaint - Kaitlin Smith.pdf
Last Modified: Tue Jun 10 08:50:44 CDT 2025

IOWA SUPREME COURT ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

<p>Cipher Hunter Complainant, vs. Kaitlin Smith, Respondent.</p>	<p>Case No.: Pending Assignment</p> <p>DECLARATION AND EVIDENCE OF ATTORNEY MISCONDUCT — IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION REGULATORY COMPLIANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS MANAGER KAITLIN SMITH</p>
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COMES NOW Pro Se Michael J. Merritt for Complainant Cipher Hunter, in this matter before the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board. Respectfully requesting review of the below testimony and evidence in accordance with Iowa Rules of the Court Chapter 32 and 35.

I. PARTIES

1. Petitioner, Cipher Hunter, is a civic transparency and records research initiative focused on the protection of civil liberties and governmental accountability registered in Marshall County, Iowa, and managed by Michael J. Merritt. Mr. Merritt is a retired U.S. Navy veteran, information warfare specialist, and public records' researcher. He is also an advocate for domestic violence survivors, individuals living with mental health disabilities, and veterans affected by military sexual trauma (MST).
 2. Respondent, Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith, is a Public Service Manager 2 within the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.
-

II. CAUSE OF ACTION

1. **32:8.4(d)** — “*engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice;*” — Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith allegedly failed to release the case file for CP#10-23-80682 despite receiving the “Request for Administrative Release (Right-to-Sue)” declaration. (See Attachments 8, 9, 10, 12, and 14).
2. **32:8.4(d)** — “*engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice;*” — Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith allegedly misrepresented available public records and failed to release the requested public records (See Attachments 11 and 13).
3. **32:4.4(a.)** — “*In representing a client, a lawyer shall not use means that have no substantial purpose other than to embarrass, delay, or burden a third person, or use methods of obtaining evidence that violate the legal rights of such a person.*” — Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith allegedly failed to release the case file for CP#10-23-80682 despite receiving the “Request for Administrative Release (Right-to-Sue)” declaration. (See Attachments 8, 9, 10, 12, and 14).
4. **32:4.4(a.)** — “*In representing a client, a lawyer shall not use means that have no substantial purpose other than to embarrass, delay, or burden a third person, or use methods of obtaining evidence that violate the legal rights of such a person.*” — Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith allegedly misrepresented available public records and failed to release the requested public records (See Attachments 11 and 13).
5. **32:8.4(a.)** — “*violate or attempt to violate the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another;*” —

This complaint alleges Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith has engaged in conduct supporting four distinct violations of the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct as supported by the testimony and evidence within this complaint.

III. FACTS AND BACKGROUND

The Complainant communicated on 01 MAY 2025 (See Attachment 8, Electronic Mail — Michael J Merritt — 01 MAY 2025 — 1815) his intention to investigate the evidence supporting the Iowa Civil Rights Commission’s failure to properly implement Iowa Code §§ 216.5(1) and 216.5(3) which mandate prompt and impartial investigation of civil rights complaints during case CP#10-23-80682. The timeline of evidence submitted within this complaint supports the Iowa Civil Rights Commission’s alleged failure to properly locate and release requested public records as required by Iowa Code Chapter 22 and release the requested case file for CP#10-23-80682 pursuant to Iowa Code § 216.5(17).

Timeline of Events

Each of the following events corresponds to a documented attachment and supports the foundation for the alleged Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct violations outlined in Section II.

1. **11-12 JUL 2023** – On 11 JUL 2023, Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckley communicated, *“His emails are getting more and more prolific (maybe I just had a reprieve for a couple months) and quite frankly, I have some cyber security concerns with his links and attachments. I especially worry about this database he is building which sounds like he is trying to be able to search all of the electronic records for all these entities or that it could create some security risks if he collects information about where and how records are stored online. I don’t know if he is capable of collecting such*

information or if this is part of some of his mental health issues.” On 12 JUL 2023, Iowa Public Information Board Chairman Julie Pottorff communicated, “I think it’s probably related to mental health issues. But you might call the Department of Public Safety and ask to talk to someone about your concerns. Someone in that department should be able to give you advice about dealing with him and should know whether any investigation into his activities is warranted. If investigation is warranted, the Department of Public Safety should handle it.” (See Attachment 1, Electronic Mail – Iowa Public Information Board – Combined – 11-12 JUL 2023 – 1458).

2. **13-14 JUL 2023** – On 13 JUL 2023, Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckely communicated to the Iowa Department of Public Safety, *“I am uncertain if this is the appropriate division or if there is a better place to reach out for some assistance, so please let me know if there is. Michael Merritt communicates almost on a daily basis with IPIB in the fashion similar to below. (This is actually much shorter and lucid than most.) I have some cyber security concerns with his links and attachments. I especially worry about this database he says he is building which sounds like he is trying to be able to search all of the electronic records for all these entities or that it could create some security risks if he collects information about where and how records are stored online. I don't know if he is capable of collecting such information or if this is part of some of his mental health issues. He has said that he had extensive computer and networking experience in the Navy. I do know that he makes prolific requests to cities and counties and many requests address emails and information related to their email systems, so it is possible he is gathering information that would be useful for such purposes. IPIB does not seem to have any authority or ability to address anything like this, so I am asking for any guidance or assistance you can provide on what limits we should put to ensure protection for government entities. It is possible that this is not anything that I need to*

worry about, if so, please let me know that as well. Thank you for any assistance or direction you can provide.” On 14 JUL 2023, State of Iowa Criminal Intelligence Analyst Nicole Roberts communicated to Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckley, “Good Morning – The below email was received. We have shared this information with OCIO and the Iowa State Patrol for their awareness. Cyber related concerns can be directed to can be directed to OCIO also in the future: <https://ocio.iowa.gov/> Thanks, Nikki” (See Attachment 2, Electronic Mail — Nicole Roberts – 14 JUL 2023 – 1103).

3. **20 JUL 2023** – Iowa Public Information Board 20 JUL 2023 Public Meeting (See Attachment 3, Chest Camera – Iowa Public Information Board Public Meeting – 20 July 2023).
4. **08 AUG 2023** – Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckley communicated to the State of Iowa Chief Information Officer, “I am not certain if this is anything that you all can address or need to address, but I have ongoing concerns regarding the activity from Mr. Merritt. I sent some information to public safety, but they suggested I contact OCIO. Mr. Merritt is making 1000s of records requests to government entities. He has a right to do that. The concern I have is that he has stated that he wants to develop a database of the government email systems etc. I know he is prolific in his postings online, and I am not sure how much information he has gathered or what he has posted that could potentially create risks and vulnerabilities to government entities. He continues to tout his military training in data security, so I am certain he is able to pull quite a bit of information from his requests. I have concerns about the scope of what is being collected and potential harm that could be done if there is a database that shares information that could be useful to others to harm these government systems if bad actors were able to use the information to insert malware or ransomware. If there is no concern, then please let me know. If there is concern, then any recommendations you have to assist

in educating entities about how to respond to requests for emails and data information or what to retain for security would be much appreciated. Thank you for your time.” (See Attachment 4, Electronic Mail – Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Eckley – 08 AUG 2023 — 1551).

5. **22 AUG 2023** – Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Eckley communicated, *“The Iowa Public Information Board is not able to accept any of the 35 complaints filed at 3:48 a.m. on August 11, 2023. In reviewing the seemingly **auto-generated** and batched complaints, there is no evidence that any government entity has refused to comply with the request as made. There is also no evidence that the requests have even be received by the entities. You have withdrawn your complaints against the Iowa Department of the Blind and the Iowa Secretary of State’s office, the remaining 33 complaints are dismissed as failing to allege a violation of Iowa Code Chapter 22.”* (See Attachment 5, Memorandum - Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckley - 22 AUG 2023).
6. **15 SEP 2023** – *“Erika Eckley, the board’s executive director, told the committee the proposed legislation is intended to address what she called “excessive and abusive” requests for information. ”, “We’ve had some issues with individuals filing hundreds of requests and engaging in abuse – what many would consider abusive and harassing conduct related to those,” Eckley told the committee. “And so looking at it there’s not a lot that individuals can do if they’re in that situation. There’s very little that they can do other than to continue to just take the harassment and continue to have to review the information from that individual to make sure they are complying with their (Open Records Law) requirements.”, “I’m not sure if it’s 100 for one specific agency, but there have been hundreds sent out by — across the state — quite extensive,” she said. She added that she has “become aware of an individual basically **automating** across all*

counties, all school boards, all cities, and such, seeking extensive records and then the communications after that can be quite abusive and harassing.”, “Eckley declined to identify the person who is making the “automated” requests and abusive comments, although she acknowledged the records requests are, themselves, considered to be public documents in Iowa”, “I don’t feel comfortable sharing the individual’s name,” she said. “This isn’t just one person, but this is — I mean, it was brought up because of that situation, but this is, I don’t believe this is a one-person issue.”, “She said the proposed legislation was composed at her own initiative and that no city, county or state officials had suggested she draft such a bill. “I brought up the potential issue to look at as something within our scope if there’s issues within the public records for our board to look at and consider if there’s anything we need to do or not,” she said.”, “When asked about that at Friday’s meeting, Eckley said the issue before the board has more to do with “the conduct” of the people requesting the records than with the requests themselves. “I guess that the purpose (of the draft legislation) is to look at if there are ways that we can prevent front-line employees from significant harassing behavior or other things that make it so that they’re not able to do the job, their main job for government,” she said. “It’s not to prevent individuals from filing requests. It’s to address those extreme cases.” (See Attachment 6, News Article – Iowa Capital Dispatch – 15 SEP 2023).

7. **22 SEP 2023** – *“A Navy veteran who says he has PTSD is the man responsible for triggering proposed new restrictions on Iowans’ access to government documents.”, “The individual, Michael J. Merritt of Newton, calls himself “Cipher Hunter” and describes himself as a “creative writer/musician and information warfare specialist.”, “He wrote to one state official earlier this year and explained that he had “been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder related to multiple false allegations of criminal conduct going back to January 2017.”, “Last month, he filed almost three dozen complaints with*

the Iowa Public Information Board, each alleging violations of Iowa's Open Records Law. Merritt's actions prompted IPIB's executive director to urge the board to take action, calling it a "potential immediate crisis" that could quickly consume all of IPIB's resources by forcing the board to investigate each of Merritt's complaints. Within days, IPIB quickly rejected all of Merritt's complaints, but then began considering proposed legislation that would enable state agencies, as well as Iowa's cities, counties and school districts, to ignore for up to one year any public-records requests generated by individuals deemed by the board to be the work of a "vexatious requester." IPIB Executive Director Erika Eckley has said that while the proposed bill was prompted by the actions of one individual, she believes it's not "a one-person issue" in Iowa. The Iowa Capital Dispatch was unable to reach Merritt for comment.", "Some board members have already expressed reservations with the proposal, noting that government agencies can pursue harassment charges or seek injunctive relief through the civil courts.", "In July, Merritt sent Eckley an email with the subject header "The Form of the Flying Dutchman," announcing his plans to donate to the state a database he had created showing where all state and local government agencies electronically store and preserve public documents. In the email, which was copied to dozens of other public officials, Merritt said he had compiled the database while being treated for PTSD.", "Pottorff responded by indicating Merritt's actions were "probably related to his mental health issues" and suggested Eckley consult with the Iowa Department of Public Safety.", "Days later, Eckley wrote to the state's Office of Chief Information Officer to express "ongoing concerns regarding the activity from Mr. Merritt." Eckley wrote that "Merritt is making 1000s of records requests to government entities. He has a right to do that. The concern I have is that he has stated he wants to develop a database of the government email systems, etc." She wrote that she was concerned about the "potential harm that could be done if there is a database that

*shares information that could be useful to others to harm these government systems if bad actors were able to use the information to insert malware of ransomware.”, “**At one point he told me he was going to develop a database of information to make request to government entities easier – particularly how they store emails,” Eckley told the board members.** “I am not sure his actions are meant to be a cybersecurity threat, but he could be creating information that others could use for attacks.” She warned of a “potential immediate crisis” that would have a direct impact on her own office, which works to resolve disputes over public-records requests. “This has ballooned into something that could consume all of the IPIB resources ... **if we have to open a complaint for every allegation he makes in regards to his voluminous and indecipherable requests.**” (See Attachment 7, News Article – Iowa Capital Dispatch – 22 SEP 2023).*

8. **01 MAY 2025** – Michael J. Merritt communicated to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, *“Attached is the requested declaration.”, “The people of the State of Iowa deserve to live in a world that acknowledges their grievances regarding evidence of discrimination that violates Iowa Code Chapter 216. Suppose the evidence indicates this board fails to manifest proper civil rights protections within the State of Iowa. In that case, I will lawfully work to see that they have it. Please provide the names and positions, including the executive director, of all personnel within the Iowa Civil Rights Commission who handled my complaint and are licensed by the Iowa Court.”* (See Attachment 8, Electronic Mail – Michael J Merritt – 01 MAY 2025 – 1815).

9. **13 MAY 2025** – Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith communicated to Michael J. Merritt, after being electronically provided a copy of the *“Request for Administrative Release (Right-to-Sue),” “The Iowa Office of Civil Rights has received your records request filed May 1, 2025. As an initial matter, under Iowa Code section 216.15(5), the civil rights*

commission is prohibited from disclosing the filing of civil rights complaints, as well as information connected to those complaints. Therefore, members of the public are not able to access the agency's case files through open records requests. However, as a person who has filed a complaint, you are able to get a copy of your own case file outside of the open records process. To do this, you would need to request a right to sue letter and copy of your case file by emailing those requests to icrc@iowa.gov or by responding to me making that request. There is no cost for obtaining a digital copy of your case file.” (See Attachment 9, Electronic Mail – Kaitlin Smith – 13 MAY 2025 – 1537).

10. **05 JUN 2025** – Michael J. Merritt communicated to Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith, *“I would like to respectfully redirect your attention to my 01 MAY 2025 electronic mail below that included the requested declaration for my case against the Iowa Public Information Board. I am also requesting to know if my case against Poweshiek County, IA, also qualifies for a right to sue declaration submission. Suppose it does qualify in that case; please provide the required case number information so I can prepare a right to sue letter for that case as well.”* (See Attachment 10, Electronic Mail – Michael J Merritt – 05 JUN 2025 – 1754).

11. **05 JUN 2025** – Michael J. Merritt requested the Iowa Civil Rights Commission provide individual electronic mail copies of a nine section email public records request thread sent to various State and local government bodies during 2024 (including the Iowa Civil Rights Commission). This request included a copy of the record provided by the Iowa Public Information Board in a previous records request verifying the State of Iowa has a copy of the requested record. The Iowa Civil Rights Commission was requested to provide this record because the Complainant in this case has experienced nothing but evidence of discrimination, criminalization, and unethical conduct not consistent with the

Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct from the Iowa Public Information Board. (See Attachment 11, Electronic Mail – Michael J. Merritt – 05 JUN 2025 – 1812).

12. **06 JUN 2025** – Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith communicated to Michael J. Merritt, *“I responded to your request on May 13, 2025. Please let me know if you would like me to resend that response to you. The complaint you filed against Poweshiek County is CP# 07-24-82277, and you have until 1/30/2027 to request a letter of right-to-sue.”* (See Attachment 12, Electronic Mail – Kaitlin Smith – 06 JUN 2025 – 0840).

13. **06 JUN 2025** – Iowa Civil Rights Commission Regulatory Compliance & Administrative Process Manager Kaitlin Smith communicated to Michael J. Merritt, *“Based on my review of your email and attachment, the Iowa Office of Civil Rights does not have any responsive records. If you would like to make a more specific request, I would be happy to review it.”* (See Attachment 13, Electronic Mail – Kaitlin Smith – 06 JUN 2025 – 1313).

14. **06 JUN 2025** – After evidence of numerous delays and misrepresentations of available public record by the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. The Complainant initiated the drafting and submission of legal documents in accordance with the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct regarding the evidence of delay an unnecessary burden imposed by the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. (See Attachment 14, Electronic Mail – Michael J. Merritt – 06 JUN 2025 – 1521).

IV. ATTACHMENTS

1. Electronic Mail – Iowa Public Information Board — Combined – 11-12 JUL 2023 — 1458

2. Electronic Mail — Nicole Roberts — 14 JUL 2023 — 1103
 3. Chest Camera – Iowa Public Information Board Public Meeting – 20 July 2023
 4. Electronic Mail — Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Eckley — 08 AUG 2023 — 1551
 5. Memorandum — Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Erika Eckley — 22 AUG 2023
 6. News Article — Iowa Capital Dispatch — 15 SEP 2023
 7. News Article — Iowa Capital Dispatch — 22 SEP 2023
 8. Electronic Mail — Michael J Merritt — 01 MAY 2025 — 1815
 9. Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 13 MAY 2025 — 1537
 10. Electronic Mail — Michael J Merritt — 05 JUN 2025 — 1754
 11. Electronic Mail — Michael J. Merritt — 05 JUN 2025 — 1812
 12. Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 06 JUN 2025 — 0840
 13. Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 06 JUN 2025 — 1313
 14. Electronic Mail — Michael J. Merritt — 06 JUN 2025 — 1521
-

V. ANALYSIS

Despite clear email documentation from May and June 2025, Kaitlin Smith has repeatedly denied receiving the “*Request for Administrative Release (Right-to-Sue)*” declaration (See Attachments 9 — Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 13 MAY 2025 — 1537 and Attachment 12 — Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 06 JUN 2025 — 0840), even though Attachments 8 — Electronic Mail — Michael J Merritt — 01 MAY 2025 — 1815 and 10 — Electronic Mail — Michael J Merritt — 05 JUN 2025 — 1754 confirm that these declarations were submitted in accordance with the proper administrative procedures to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

When viewed in light of Ms. Smith’s legal background and her responsibilities as a State of Iowa Public Service Manager 2— these events may constitute a potential violation regarding willful misrepresentation and improper delay, potentially infringing upon the complainant’s statutory rights.

The evidence demonstrates a consistent pattern during Iowa Civil Rights Commission case CP#10-23-80682 and the commission's subsequent handling of administrative procedure pursuant to Iowa Code § 216.5(17) of improper diligence and obstruction.

Additionally, the Iowa Civil Rights Commission was asked to produce nine specific emails. Attachment 11 — Electronic Mail — Michael J. Merritt — 05 JUN 2025 — 1812, provides evidence that the State of Iowa continues to store and preserve these records—inconsistent with Ms. Smith’s representations in Attachment 13 — Electronic Mail — Kaitlin Smith — 06 JUN 2025 — 1313, that no such emails exist. To verify this inconsistency, the Complainant will be submitting identical records requests to other Iowa state agencies that host their email systems through the iowa.gov domain. This will assist the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board in determining whether Ms. Smith knowingly misrepresented the existence of public records in violation of Iowa Code Chapter 22 and the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Taken together, the documented facts and statutory violations form a pattern of conduct that cannot be dismissed as isolated oversights. Rather, they represent a systemic breach of public trust.

VI. CONCLUSION

This matter implicates not only the operational integrity of a key state agency, but the ethical

standards by which this Court vests public trust in its licensees. The conduct of Iowa Civil Rights Commission Public Service Manager Kaitlin Smith constitutes a serious breach of professional responsibility, meriting immediate investigation by the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board. This matter implicates not only the credibility of a state agency but also the standards of integrity governing the Iowa Bar and the Court's licensing authority.

The record reflects that the Iowa Civil Rights Commission failed to fulfill its statutory obligations under Iowa Code §§ 216.5(1) and 216.5(3), which require prompt, fair, and impartial investigation of civil rights complaints. Instead, the Commission dismissed case CP#10-23-80682 without addressing the core evidence presented (See Attachment 1, Electronic Mail — Iowa Public Information Board — Combined — 11-12 JUL 2023 -1458), and without acknowledging or processing the Complainant's "Request for Administrative Release (Right-to-Sue)." These failures—especially in concert—raise substantial concerns that the omissions were not accidental, but strategically calculated to delay or obstruct lawful litigation against another Iowa agency.

Moreover, the Iowa Supreme Court has communicated regarding Iowa Code Chapter 22 "*The purpose of the statute is to open the doors of government to public scrutiny [and] to prevent government from secreting its decision-making activities from the public, on whose behalf it is its duty to act.*" ' "Diercks, 806 N.W.2d at 652 (quoting Rathmann v. Bd. of Dirs., 580 N.W.2d 773, 777 (Iowa 1998)). " 'Accordingly, there is a presumption of openness and disclosure under this chapter.' " Id. (quoting Gabrilson v. Flynn, 554 N.W.2d 267, 271 (Iowa 1996)).

This is not merely a guiding principle—it is binding law. Kaitlin Smith's conduct, as detailed in this declaration, cannot be reconciled with that mandate. The record supports a finding that her actions violate both Iowa statutory law and the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct, and directly contradict Iowa's constitutional commitments to transparency and civil rights protection.

Ms. Smith's failure to uphold her duties under Iowa Code Chapters 22 and 216 reflects not only

on her personal conduct, but also on the institutional posture of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. If left unaddressed, this matter would cast serious doubt on the Court's commitment to holding its licensees to meaningful standards of legal and ethical accountability.

Accordingly, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board initiate a formal review of Kaitlin Smith's conduct. This is not merely a request for disciplinary review—it is an affirmation that legal licensure in Iowa demands fidelity to law, transparency, and justice.

Fiat justitia ruat caelum

I certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the state of Iowa that the preceding is true and correct.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Michael J. Merritt

Michael J. Merritt
Founder, Cipher Hunter
2510 S 6th St. D24
Marshalltown, IA 50158
Telephone: (641)-387-9935
Email: mj.merritt@cipherhunter.net
Pro Se for Cipher Hunter

From: AG Webteam [AG] <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>
To: IDRBankruptcy [IDR]
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=28c9f83f3a3144399239484aa2c4
17b8-idrbankrupt>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: Re: The Form of the Standing Sailor and the Iowa Licensed Lawyers
Passed Out Under the State Bar
Date: Fri Jan 17 2025 11:56:14 CST
Attachments: merritt.pdf

From: pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 11:47 AM
To: Bayens, Stephan <bayens@dps.state.ia.us>
Cc: ipib@iowa.gov; Aspercoatty, J <general@jaspercoatty.org>; susan.christensen@iowacourts.gov; AG Webteam [AG] <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>; Recorder@jasperia.org; reaton@jasperia.org; btalsma@jasperia.org; dcupples@jasperia.org; evelyng@newtongov.org; info@iowacapitaldispatch.com; chunter@registermedia.com; melissad@newtongov.org; stacys@newtongov.org; stevem@newtongov.org; joelm@newtongov.org; mtupper@marshalltown-ia.gov; icrc@iowa.gov; Records [IGOV] <Records@governor.iowa.gov>; randye@newtongov.org; markh@newtongov.org; wsimmons@grinnelliowa.gov
Subject: Fwd: Re: The Form of the Standing Sailor and the Iowa Licensed Lawyers Passed Out Under the State Bar

Commissioner Bayens:

I am respectfully requesting all Iowa Department of Public Safety records related to the attached electronic mail that evidence indicates you have been concealing since they were originally requested in January 2024. I am respectfully requesting all records related to Michael James Merritt DOB: 12/25/1978, DL: Look it Up.

Bayens how would you feel if you served something honorably for twenty years and then when you returned home and asked for help that entity produced evidence of throwing your life and your family in a ditch and criminalizing your lawful efforts to restore it.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt

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

From: "Eckley, Erika" <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>
To: "pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net" <pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net>
Date: 11/15/2024 4:04 PM CST

Subject: Re: The Form of the Standing Sailor and the Iowa Licensed Lawyers Passed Out Under the State Bar

emails you requested via phone on 11/13

Erika Eckley, Executive Director
Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB)

On Tue, Nov 12, 2024 at 2:23PM pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> <pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> > wrote:
State of Iowa Judicial Branch:

I am requesting an electronic mail address to forward over 40 proposed exhibits supporting Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Review Board complaints against Matthew Brick and James Brick of Brick Gentry P.C regarding their alleged unethical acts designed to conceal and misrepresent the alleged unethical acts of their client the City of Newton, IA. At the same time, the evidence supports that they deployed acts including false allegations of criminal conduct, restriction of rights and liberties during the 2022 election year without due process, misrepresentation of facts on court documents, and other unethical acts that evidence indicates violated the Iowa Rules of the Court Chapter 32 while producing documented damage to the mental health and service-connected disabilities of an honorably retired United States Navy Veteran (US Department of Veterans Affairs documented elevation of service-connected mental health disabilities from 50% to 70% during the Summer of 2023).

<https://stream.phoenixharbor.net/w/tbvVbVzFYcrJBrTFTUDqBc?start=24m17s>
<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fstream.phoenixharbor.net%2Fw%2FtbvVbVzFYcrJBrTFTUDqBc%3Fstart%3D24m17s&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7C33f613304f2a47c6f21908dd08c23b3e%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638676353063046678%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIiIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fSpPztJfCUlxi5sENZFRVYrD%2FCIrpYbRbz9nV2yN5%2F8%3D&reserved=0>>

Complaints are pending regarding the following individuals believed to be licensed by the Iowa Court:

James Brick
Matthew Brick
Scott Nicholson
Julie Pottorff
Erika Eckley

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt

On 11/10/2024 9:25 PM CST pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> <pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> > wrote:

Jasper County, IA, Attorney Scott Nicholson

I am respectfully requesting the following Jasper County, IA, Facebook Block Lists in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22 and IPIB Case 22FC:0091. At the same time, the evidence shows you misrepresented on 09 NOV 2022 to the IPIB that you already provided the below social media block list public records.

Jasper County, IA
Jasper County, IA Sheriff
Brandon Talsma Jasper County, IA Supervisor
Doug Cupples, Jasper County, IA Supervisor
Jasper County, IA Recorder's Office
Jasper County, IA Health Department

All alleged vexatious or "abusive" public records requests reported during the November 2023 Jasper County, IA Supervisors' public meeting and Newton Daily News Article: <https://www.newtondailynews.com/news/local/2023/11/14/jasper-county-changes-open-records-policy-to-thwart-abusive-requests/> <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.newtondailynews.com%2Fnews%2Flocal%2F2023%2F11%2F14%2Fjasper-county-changes-open-records-policy-to-thwart-abusive-requests%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7C33f613304f2a47c6f21908dd08c23b3e%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638676353063071825%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=X9MzRZE%2FnOVMaVpMYNk0U3CUYkHwNZr1%2FGa%2BhmswH7w%3D&reserved=0>>

You can either provide these social media block lists as you indicated you already had on 09 NOV 2022 during IPIB case 22FC:0091 and deal with an Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Review Board Complaint, or you can help me with dismantling both your career's integrity and every member of the Iowa Public Information Board during a future IPIB public meeting if it becomes necessary in accordance with Iowa Code Sections 22.8(4.) (d.) and 23.7.

I would also like to bring the following to your attention regarding the evidence of your offices historical conduct, multiple false allegations of criminal conduct against me, and other alleged misconduct as it possibly relates to documented damages to my mental health that occurred from July 2017 - July 2023 and possible relevance with Iowa Code Sections 708.1(2.)(b.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.1.pdf>> , 708.2(2.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.2.pdf>> , Iowa Code Section 802.3 <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/802.3.pdf>> , and the Iowa Rules of the Court Chapters 32:4.1(a.), 32:4.4(a.), 32:8.4(a.), 32:8.4(b.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/ICRC/32.pdf>> (See: Iowa Code Section 708.7(1.) (a.) (4.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.7.pdf>> and 718.6) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/718.6.pdf>> , 32:8.4(c.), 32:8.4(d.), 32:8.4(e.) <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/ICRC/32.pdf>> (See: IPIB Case 22FC:0091 <<https://ipib.iowa.gov/22fc0091-michael-merrittjasper-county-dismissal-order>>)

It is my belief that most reasonable minded individuals even one with mental health disabilities would exist in a state of fear, panic, intimidation, or annoyance regarding possible unlawful physical contact, restraint, or assault during an unlawful arrest based upon the evidence of the false allegations of criminal conduct (708.7 <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.7.pdf>>

iowa.gov/docs/code/708.7.pdf> /708.11 <<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/708.11.pdf>>) that evidence shows have originated from your office against me during numerous public records requests that evidence shows you ignored, disregarded, or failed to properly respond. At the same time, considering the evidence of your offices involvement in the evidence supporting Iowa Public Information Board Executive Director Eckley's state-wide vexatious lie in September 2023 while she sought expanded unconstitutional political power that attempted to void our constitutional requirement regarding due process for all citizens. I have evidence connecting this proposed legislation to your office.

Scott are you going to sue me for slander (See: City of Grinnell, IA 14 APR 2023 public record - Captain Johnson Report), make an arrest, or are you simply going to keep calling the Jasper County, IA Sheriff and tell him I am harassing your office every time I provide your office evidence of its misconduct. I am sitting here at McDonald's on the south side of Marshalltown, IA <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fmaps%2Fplace%2FMcDonald%27s%2F%4042.005659%2C-92.9142729%2C17z%2Fdata%3D!3m1!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x87efa50e83dda11d%3A0xe3835c9f9a62c069!8m2!3d42.005655!4d-92.911698!16s%252Fg%252F1ffc2l0j%3Fentry%3Dttu%26g_ep%3DEgoyMDI0MTEwNi4wLkXMDSoASAFQAw%253D%253D&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7C33f613304f2a47c6f21908dd08c23b3e%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638676353063089088%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Su%2B0qoexXe1Zx1XMN4WKWDH2Lwo4%2FV0Zv7%2F8isQ9484%3D&reserved=0> , with a half full cup of Dr. Pepper wondering if you are ever going to show up and get me a refill.

My depression and panic take me to a place darker than any night I have served on the Atlantic. That is when I turn to my faith and stand up to the unethical in accordance with our laws and direct them to can it.

https://youtu.be/Mwq01_cwrXM?si=pHdbNsqlikCzJZxF <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FMwq01_cwrXM%3Fsi%3DpHdbNsqlikCzJZxF&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7C33f613304f2a47c6f21908dd08c23b3e%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638676353063104722%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Ot%2FNpFahEWY8v1fxT4hLzVXIBmTVHyOnnpE0OzeZA%2Bg%3D&reserved=0>

Why was I Honorably Retired at 20 years...It's complicated. :)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql2oHbGsG1Y> <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3Dql2oHbGsG1Y&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7C33f613304f2a47c6f21908dd08c23b3e%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638676353063124069%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=R%2BRd235YbhcQiihPv%2FaG%2B3n2%2BtOmKvLua91SrVkw8NA%3D&reserved=0>>

It was my extreme honor to serve you all.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt

On 11/10/2024 7:39 PM CST pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> <pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net <mailto:pyrebird@phoenixharbor.net> > wrote:

Randy/Mark,

I respect you both as leaders, but I am telling you this as my friend. I halted my public records work because I have become consumed in paralyzing pain and panic. I contacted the Marshalltown Police Department last night and they helped me. I am going to be going to the VA for 6 weeks for inpatient treatment on Wednesday. I want to thank you for your friendship.

I have nothing left, but I am going to continue my public records work, because it is when the world is the darkest the Light within our souls must shine the brightest.

https://youtu.be/yokGq0yKdUc?si=ym6SWov9qv_HBtUt <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FyokGq0yKdUc%3Fsi%3Dym6SWov9qv_HBtUt&data=05%7C02%7Cwebteam%40ag.iowa.gov%7C33f613304f2a47c6f21908dd08c23b3e%7Caf5fa057d92d47999857ab5d6d03669f%7C0%7C1%7C638676353063138570%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWU%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=i4Kw3rlnbWNsFpMERjtw3eUAMTfI0DARLVew%2FfjT4SM%3D&reserved=0>

All proposed exhibits against the City of Newton, IA will be submitted to the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Review Board against Matthew Brick. In light of what I have lost recently I had no desire to play hide and seek with a licensed lawyer and a Chief of Police in court. At the same time, that court case only sought glorify for myself when I seek to only glorify my Lord Jesus Christ.

VA Nurse: Doc, the Cipher Hunter Model 101 is in the ward heavily damaged.

VA Doc: Is that the one that tells horrible jokes even though we programmed him not to.

VA Nurse: Uhhh

Cipher Hunter: "Did you all ever hear about the three-legged dog that walked into the bar, He said, Im lookin for the guy that shot my Pa.

VA Doc: Give him a 2 Liter of Pepsi, and get him the hell out of here. He'll be alright.

Your friend and humble public servant,

Respectfully,
Michael J. Merritt

Owner: AG Webteam [AG] <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>
Filename: merritt.pdf
Last Modified: Fri Jan 17 11:56:14 CST 2025

wd: Consolidated Update

message

Tue, Aug 8, 2023 at 3:51 F

ckley, Erika <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>
r: SecurityAwareness@iowa.gov

I am not certain if this is anything that you all can address or need to address, but I have ongoing concerns regarding the activity from Mr. Merritt. I sent some information to public safety, but they suggested I contact OCIO. Mr. Merritt is making 1000s of records requests to government entities. He has a right to do that. The concern I have is that he has stated that he wants to develop a database of the government email systems etc. I know he is prolific in his postings online, and I am not sure how much information he has gathered or what he has posted that could potentially create risks and vulnerabilities to government entities. He continues to tout his military training in data security, so I am certain he is able to pull quite a bit of information from his requests.

I have concerns about the scope of what is being collected and potential harm that could be done if there is a database that shares information that could be useful to others to harm these government systems if bad actors were able to use the information to insert malware or ransomware.

If there is no concern, then please let me know. If there is concern, then any recommendations you have to assist in educating entities about how to respond to requests for emails and data information or what to retain for security would be much appreciated.

Thank you for your time.

Erika Eckley, Executive Director
Iowa Public Information Board (PIB)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael J. Merritt** <cipherus.x1@cipherphoenix.com>
Date: Tue, Aug 1, 2023 at 10:29 AM
Subject: Consolidated Update

To: <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>, <bayens@dps.state.ia.us>, <emily.wharton@blind.state.ia.us>, <scott.marler@dot.iowa.gov>, <kgarcia@dhs.state.ia.us>, <beth.townsend@iwd.iowa.gov>, <treasurer@tos.iowa.gov>, <debi.durham@iowaeda.com>, <michael.naig@iowaagriculture.gov>, <greg.samorajski@pers.org>, <paul.pate@sos.iowa.gov>, <kmathis@allamakeecounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@adamscounty.iowa.gov>, <lkent@wapellocounty.org>, <crane@vanburencounty.iowa.gov>, <aassink@floydcoia.org>, <general@jaspercoatty.org>, <jphillips@idacountyia.us>, <damundson@humboldtcountyia.org>, <ggreer@shco.org>, <recorder@jonescountyia.gov>, <k.kallas@pottcounty-ia.gov>, <karol.kennedy@dubuquecountyia.gov>, <tberry@co.fremont.ia.us>, <leggers@dickinsoncountyia.gov>, <recorder@co.greenes.ia.us>, <kreierson@co.fayette.ia.us>, <recorder@polkcountyia.gov>, <recorder48@iowacounty.iowa.gov>, <helliott@mitchellcoia.us>, <recorder@marioncountyia.gov>, <recorder@kossuthcounty.iowa.gov>, <bittnerr@lucasco.org>, <recorder@keokukcounty.iowa.gov>, <awittrock@carrollcountyia.gov>, <creis@bvcountyia.com>, <recorder@marshallcountyia.gov>, <steffener@dmcounty.com>, <recorder@scottcountyia.gov>, <recorder@plymouthcountyia.gov>, <recorder@blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov>, <sweeks@claycounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@guthriecounty.gov>, <nbooten@leecounty.org>, <ssmith@obriencounty.iowa.gov>, <fgeith@hamisoncounty.iowa.gov>, <dshindler@co.delaware.ia.us>, <recorder@taylorcounty.iowa.gov>, <sboothby@co.cherokee.ia.us>, <recorder@montgomerycountyia.gov>, <mbahnsen@cedarcounty.iowa.gov>, <besaias@co.page.ia.us>, <lkadner@hardincountyia.gov>, <recorder@henrycountyia.us>, <recorder@crawfordcounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@warrencountyia.org>, <recorder@grundycountyia.gov>, <dbaker@wrightco.iowa.gov>, <aschauf@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov>, <sruppert@paloaltocounty.iowa.gov>, <dcattorney@dallascountyia.gov>, <thayes@louisacountyia.gov>, <rvokaty@howardcounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder1@poweshiekcounty.org>, <janderson@cityofiowafalls.com>, <info@cityofasbury.com>, <cityclerk@denisonia.com>, <bward@osceolaia.net>, <cityclerk@chariton.org>, <alent@indianolaia.gov>, <elinorp@siouxcenter.org>, <cjeff@cityofjeffersoniowa.org>, <webmaster@forddodgeiowa.org>, <rwilliams@grimesiowa.gov>, <trudy@cityofcharlescity.org>, <cityclerk@orangedcityiowa.com>, <gmcolarnon@cityofclarinda.com>, <info@manchester-ia.org>, <bwilkerson@tiffin-iowa.org>, <dbell@algonaiowa.gov>, <info@cityofeldridgeia.org>, <cityclerk@independenceia.org>, <diane.voss@cityofames.org>, <msmith@cityofpella.com>, <cityhall@lemarsiowa.com>, <CityHall@cityofsergeantbluff.com>, <bjorth@centrallyon.org>, <sbisgard@linnmar.k12.ia.us>, <tluxford@george-littlerock.org>, <earleyr@live.siouxcityschools.com>, <ahawkins@dbqschools.org>, <jeff.maeder@columbuscsd.org>, <mash@sccioa.edu>, <public-records@uiowa.edu>, <admissions@iwcc.edu>, <stoaks@swccioa.edu>, <Helpdesk.Email@indianhills.edu>, <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>

Cc: Matt Brick <Matt.Brick@brickgentrylaw.com>

To those who have responded honorably and professionally, it has meant a lot to me. I am a retired United States Navy Veteran that has investigated the concealment of my children across three states since 2017 and the government bodies (City of Newton, IA/Jasper County, IA) who have produced evidence of concealing public records related to domestic abuse, misrepresenting facts, 1st Amendment right violations during the 2022 election year, misrepresenting a public record, falsely accusing a citizen requesting public records in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22 of criminal conduct during two separate Iowa Public Information Board cases, and inconsistent enforcement of Iowa Code Section 708.7. At the same time, these government bodies (City of Marshalltown, IA, City of Newton, IA, Jasper County, IA) have produced direct/indirect evidence of discrimination against a documented service-connected mental health disability related to their enforcement of this section of the Iowa Code.

I am not a lawyer, I am a Father and a United States Navy Sailor that will execute acts according to my faith, the US Code, and the Iowa Code. At the same time, I work to protect the reader of this electronic mail and their children from what my children have lost.

If all the State of Iowa has is false allegations of criminal conduct supported by zero evidence, \$9000 record fees to search for eight electronic mail addresses, and inconsistent law enforcement documented on concealed public records.

I will wait in prayer for the only Teacher and the only Judge to deliver the Truth as the Light reveals it.

MEMORANDUM

From: Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com

To: Iowa Government Bodies Consolidated

Subj: IOWA OPEN RECORDS REQUEST - UPDATE - CONSOLIDATED

2. Iowa Code Title I State Sovereignty and Management, Chapter 23 Public Access to Government Information (Iowa Public Information Board Act) - Section 23.7 - Filing of complaints with the board.

1. Public Record Request Guidance

(a.) Time Frame of Request

Government bodies included in this status request are requested to provide any available records stored and preserved by the government body in receipt of the original request that matches the provided criteria, including any electronic mail records that include any of the eight provided addresses in an electronic mail file stored and preserved by the government body.

(b.) Government body requests completion of a specific form

Iowa Code Section 22.4 states:

"2. In writing, by telephone, or by electronic means. The lawful custodian of the records shall post information for making such requests in a manner reasonably calculated to apprise the public of that information."

The Iowa Legislature has protected a citizen's right to submit a public records request in writing, by telephone (voice), or by electronic means in accordance with Iowa Code Section 22.4. This section of the Iowa Code does not support a government body having the ability to require a specific form to be completed, whether static or dynamic, because this requirement voids an Iowa citizen's right to submit their request for public records by telephone. All Iowa Government Bodies receiving this update have received the previous public records request electronically. No further submissions or proprietary forms will be completed.

(c.) Government Body Fee's IAW Iowa Code Section 22.3

The link below provides examples of over 40 Iowa Government Body Microsoft 365 organizational users (as confirmed by public DNS - Domain Name System - records) that completed either of the following:

- (a.) Completed a search of the government body mail server and reported no records matched the provided parameters in the original record request with zero fees.
- (b.) Completed a search of the government body mail server and reported the exact quantity of records located and a reasonable fee for designated personnel to verify the record status concerning Iowa Code Section 22.7.
- (c.) Completed a search of the government body mail server and provided all located public records with zero fees.

<https://airtable.com/appI0bqEiYK0lc1OC/shrkUYIPeHmGu5k50>

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208

"Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay."

Cipher Hunter

- Iowa Open Records Request - Attorney General (Department of Justice) - 463 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Public Safety - 468 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department for the Blind - 464 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Transportation - 469 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Human Services - 466 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Workforce Development - 470 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Office of the Treasurer of State - 476 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Economic Development Authority - 471 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - 465 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System - 473 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Public Health - 467 - CM-X2

Item 269 Attachment 4 of 11
Iowa Open Records Request - Wapello County IA - 545 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Van Buren County IA - 544 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Floyd County IA - 500 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County IA - 514 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Ida County IA - 511 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Humboldt County IA - 510 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Shelby County IA - 541 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jones County IA - 516 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Pottawattamie County IA - 537 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Dubuque County IA - 498 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Fremont County IA - 502 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Dickinson County IA - 497 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Greene County IA - 503 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Fayette County IA - 499 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Polk County IA - 536 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Iowa County IA - 512 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Mitchell County IA - 528 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Marion County IA - 525 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Kossuth County IA - 518 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Lucas County IA - 521 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Keokuk County IA - 517 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Carroll County IA - 485 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County IA - 501 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Buena Vista County IA - 484 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Marshall County IA - 526 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Des Moines County IA - 496 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Scott County IA - 540 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Plymouth County IA - 535 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Black Hawk County IA - 482 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Clay County IA - 489 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Guthrie County IA - 505 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Lee County IA - 519 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - O'Brien County IA - 532 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Harrison County IA - 507 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Delaware County IA - 495 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Taylor County IA - 543 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Cherokee County IA - 488 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Montgomery County IA - 530 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Cedar County IA - 487 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Page County IA - 533 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Hardin County IA - 506 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Henry County IA - 508 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Crawford County IA - 492 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Warren County IA - 546 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Grundy County IA - 504 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Wright County IA - 549 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jackson County IA - 513 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Palo Alto County IA - 534 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Dallas County IA - 493 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Louisa County IA - 520 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Howard County IA - 509 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Poweshiek County IA - 538 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Iowa Falls IA - 572 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Asbury IA - 553 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Denison IA - 562 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Osceola IA - 580 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Chariton IA - 558 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Indianola IA - 571 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Sioux Center IA - 586 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Jefferson IA - 573 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Fort Dodge IA - 566 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Grimes IA - 567 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Charles City IA - 559 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Orange City IA - 579 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Clarinda IA - 560 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Manchester IA - 576 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County IA - 563 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Tiffin IA - 588 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Algona IA - 551 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Eldridge IA - 564 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Independence IA - 570 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Ames IA - 552 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Pella IA - 582 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Le Mars IA - 575 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Sergeant Bluff IA - 585 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Central Lyon Comm School District - 592 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Linn-Mar Comm School District - 597 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - George-Little Rock Comm School District - 596 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Sioux City Comm School District - 599 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Dubuque Comm School District - 595 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Columbus Comm School District - 593 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Southeastern Community College - 606 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - University of Iowa - 608 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Iowa Western Community College - 605 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Southwestern Community College - 607 - CM-X2

11 attachments

-  **Record Request - 1686700206365.pdf**
95K
-  **Cipher Phoenix Mail - Electronic Service - Iowa Open Records Request.pdf**
74K
-  **Record Request - 1686700018752.pdf**
94K
-  **PRR 3187 Invoice.pdf**
197K
-  **Record Request - 1686700180772.pdf**
94K
-  **Cipher Phoenix Mail - Public records requestfsd.pdf**
66K
-  **Unnamed attachment.pdf**
21K
-  **Cipher Phoenix Mail - Iowa Open Records Request - Greene County IA - 503 - CM-X2- Status Request - 01 of 02.pdf**
81K
-  **Record Request - 1686700223126.pdf**
94K
-  **Iowa Open Records Request - Update - Michael J Merritt - 31 JUL 2023.pdf**
89K
-  **Record Request - 1686700007298.pdf**
94K

wd: Consolidated Update

message

Tue, Aug 8, 2023 at 3:51 F

ckley, Erika <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>
SecurityAwareness@iowa.gov

I am not certain if this is anything that you all can address or need to address, but I have ongoing concerns regarding the activity from Mr. Merritt. I sent some information to public safety, but they suggested I contact OCIO. Mr. Merritt is making 1000s of records requests to government entities. He has a right to do that. The concern I have is that he has stated that he wants to develop a database of the government email systems etc. I know he is prolific in his postings online, and I am not sure how much information he has gathered or what he has posted that could potentially create risks and vulnerabilities to government entities. He continues to tout his military training in data security, so I am certain he is able to pull quite a bit of information from his requests.

I have concerns about the scope of what is being collected and potential harm that could be done if there is a database that shares information that could be useful to others to harm these government systems if bad actors were able to use the information to insert malware or ransomware.

If there is no concern, then please let me know. If there is concern, then any recommendations you have to assist in educating entities about how to respond to requests for emails and data information or what to retain for security would be much appreciated.

Thank you for your time.

Erika Eckley, Executive Director
Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Michael J. Merritt <cipherus.x1@cipherphoenix.com>
Date: Tue, Aug 1, 2023 at 10:29 AM
Subject: Consolidated Update

To: <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>, <bayens@dps.state.ia.us>, <emily.wharton@blind.state.ia.us>, <scott.marler@doj.iowa.gov>, <kgarcia@dhs.state.ia.us>, <beth.townsend@iwd.iowa.gov>, <treasurer@tos.iowa.gov>, <debi.durham@iowaeda.com>, <michael.naig@iowaagriculture.gov>, <greg.samorajski@pers.org>, <paul.pate@sos.iowa.gov>, <kmathis@allamakeecounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@adamscounty.iowa.gov>, <lkent@wapellocounty.org>, <icrane@vanburencounty.iowa.gov>, <aassink@floydcoia.org>, <general@jaspercoatty.org>, <jphillips@ic.acountyia.us>, <damundson@humboldtcountyia.org>, <ggreer@shco.org>, <recorder@jonescountyiowa.gov>, <k.kallas@pottcounty-ia.gov>, <karl.kennedy@dubuquecountyiowa.gov>, <tberry@co.fremont.ia.us>, <leggers@dickinsoncountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@co.greene.ia.us>, <kreierson@co.fayette.ia.us>, <recorder@polkcountyiowa.gov>, <recorder48@iowacounty.iowa.gov>, <helliott@mitchellcoia.us>, <recorder@marioncountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@kossuthcounty.iowa.gov>, <bitnerr@lucasco.org>, <recorder@keokukcounty.iowa.gov>, <awittrock@carrollcountyiowa.org>, <creis@bvcountyiowa.com>, <recorder@marshallcountyia.gov>, <steffern@dmcounty.com>, <recorder@scottcountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@plymouthcountyiowa.gov>, <recorder@blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov>, <sweeks@claycounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@guthrieconomy.gov>, <nbooten@leecounty.org>, <ssmith@obriencounty.iowa.gov>, <felth@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov>, <dschindler@co.delaware.ia.us>, <recorder@taylorcounty.iowa.gov>, <sboothby@co.berkeley.ia.us>, <recorder@montgomerycountyia.us>, <recorder@crawfordcounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@warrencountyia.org>, <besaias@co.page.ia.us>, <lkadner@hardincountyia.gov>, <aschauf@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov>, <sruppert@paloaltocounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder@grundycountyiowa.gov>, <dbaker@wrightco.iowa.gov>, <aschauf@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov>, <sruppert@paloaltocounty.iowa.gov>, <dcattorney@dallascountyiowa.gov>, <thayes@louisacountyia.gov>, <rvokaty@howardcounty.iowa.gov>, <recorder1@poweshiekcounty.org>, <janderson@cityofiowafalls.com>, <info@cityofasbury.com>, <cityclerk@denisonia.com>, <bward@osceolaia.net>, <cityclerk@chariton.org>, <alent@indianolaia.gov>, <ellinorp@siouxcenter.org>, <cjeff@cityofjeffersoniowa.org>, <webmaster@fortdodgeiowa.org>, <williams@grimesiowa.gov>, <trudy@cityofcharlescity.org>, <cityclerk@orangecityiowa.com>, <gmclarnon@cityofdarinda.com>, <info@manchester-ia.org>, <bwilkerson@tiffin-iowa.org>, <dbell@algonaiowa.gov>, <info@cityofeldridgeia.org>, <cityclerk@independenceia.org>, <diane.voss@cityofames.org>, <msmith@cityofpella.com>, <cityhall@emarsiowa.com>, <CityHall@cityofsergeantbluff.com>, <bjorth@centrallyon.org>, <sbisgard@linnmar.k12.ia.us>, <tluxford@george-littlerock.org>, <earleyr@live.siouxcityschools.com>, <ahawkins@dbqschools.org>, <jeff.maeder@columbuscsd.org>, <mash@sccioa.edu>, <public-records@uiowa.edu>, <admissions@iwcc.edu>, <stoaks@swccioa.edu>, <Helpdesk.Email@indianhills.edu>, <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>

Cc: Matt Brick <Matt.Brick@brickgentrylaw.com>

To those who have responded honorably and professionally, it has meant a lot to me. I am a retired United States Navy Veteran that has investigated the concealment of my children across three states since 2017 and the government bodies (City of Newton, IA/Jasper County, IA) who have produced evidence of concealing public records related to domestic abuse, misrepresenting facts, 1st Amendment right violations during the 2022 election year, misrepresenting a public record, falsely accusing a citizen requesting public records in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22 of criminal conduct during two separate Iowa Public Information Board cases, and inconsistent enforcement of Iowa Code Section 708.7. At the same time, these government bodies (City of Marshalltown, IA, City of Newton, IA, Jasper County, IA) have produced direct/indirect evidence of discrimination against a documented service-connected mental health disability related to their enforcement of this section of the Iowa Code.

I am not a lawyer; I am a Father and a United States Navy Sailor that will execute acts according to my faith, the US Code, and the Iowa Code. At the same time, I work to protect the reader of this electronic mail and their children from what my children have lost.

If all the State of Iowa has is false allegations of criminal conduct supported by zero evidence, \$9000 record fees to search for eight electronic mail addresses, and inconsistent law enforcement documented on concealed public records.

I will wait in prayer for the only Teacher and the only Judge to deliver the Truth as the Light reveals it.

MEMORANDUM

From: Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com

To: Iowa Government Bodies Consolidated

Subj: IOWA OPEN RECORDS REQUEST - UPDATE - CONSOLIDATED

2. Iowa Code Title I State Sovereignty and Management, Chapter 22 Examination of Public Records (Open Records)

1. Public Record Request Guidance

(a.) Time Frame of Request

Government bodies included in this status request are requested to provide any available records stored and preserved by the government body in receipt of the original request that matches the provided criteria, including any electronic mail records that include any of the eight provided addresses in an electronic mail file stored and preserved by the government body.

(b.) Government body requests completion of a specific form

Iowa Code Section 22.4 states:

"2. In writing, by telephone, or by electronic means. The lawful custodian of the records shall post information for making such requests in a manner reasonably calculated to apprise the public of that information."

The Iowa Legislature has protected a citizen's right to submit a public records request in writing, by telephone (voice), or by electronic means in accordance with Iowa Code Section 22.4. This section of the Iowa Code does not support a government body having the ability to require a specific form to be completed, whether static or dynamic, because this requirement voids an Iowa citizen's right to submit their request for public records by telephone. All Iowa Government Bodies receiving this update have received the previous public records request electronically. No further submissions or proprietary forms will be completed.

(c.) Government Body Fee's IAW Iowa Code Section 22.3

The link below provides examples of over 40 Iowa Government Body Microsoft 365 organizational users (as confirmed by public DNS - Domain Name System - records) that completed either of the following:

- (a.) Completed a search of the government body mail server and reported no records matched the provided parameters in the original record request with zero fees.
- (b.) Completed a search of the government body mail server and reported the exact quantity of records located and a reasonable fee for designated personnel to verify the record status concerning Iowa Code Section 22.7.
- (c.) Completed a search of the government body mail server and provided all located public records with zero fees.

<https://airtable.com/appI0bqEiYK0lc1OC/shrkUYIPeHmCu5k50>

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208

"Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay."

Cipher Hunter

- Iowa Open Records Request - Attorney General (Department of Justice) - 463 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Public Safety - 468 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department for the Blind - 464 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Transportation - 469 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Human Services - 466 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Workforce Development - 470 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Office of the Treasurer of State - 476 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Economic Development Authority - 471 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - 465 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System - 473 - CM-X2
- Iowa Open Records Request - Department of Public Health - 467 - CM-X2

Iowa Open Records Request - Attachment #1 of 1 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Wapello County IA - 545 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Van Buren County IA - 544 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Floyd County IA - 500 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County IA - 514 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Ida County IA - 511 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Humboldt County IA - 510 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Shelby County IA - 541 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jones County IA - 516 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Pottawattamie County IA - 537 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Dubuque County IA - 498 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Fremont County IA - 502 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Dickinson County IA - 497 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Greene County IA - 503 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Fayette County IA - 499 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Polk County IA - 536 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Iowa County IA - 512 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Mitchell County IA - 528 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Marion County IA - 525 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Kossuth County IA - 518 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Lucas County IA - 521 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Keokuk County IA - 517 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Carroll County IA - 485 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County IA - 501 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Buena Vista County IA - 484 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Marshall County IA - 526 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Des Moines County IA - 496 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Scott County IA - 540 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Plymouth County IA - 535 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Black Hawk County IA - 482 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Clay County IA - 489 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Guthrie County IA - 505 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Lee County IA - 519 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - O'Brien County IA - 532 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Harrison County IA - 507 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Delaware County IA - 495 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Taylor County IA - 543 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Cherokee County IA - 488 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Montgomery County IA - 530 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Cedar County IA - 487 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Page County IA - 533 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Hardin County IA - 506 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Henry County IA - 508 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Crawford County IA - 492 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Warren County IA - 546 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Grundy County IA - 504 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Wright County IA - 549 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jackson County IA - 513 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Palo Alto County IA - 534 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Dallas County IA - 493 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Louisa County IA - 520 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Howard County IA - 509 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Poweshiek County IA - 538 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Iowa Falls IA - 572 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Asbury IA - 553 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Denison IA - 562 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Osceola IA - 580 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Chariton IA - 558 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Indianola IA - 571 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Sioux Center IA - 586 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Jefferson IA - 573 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Fort Dodge IA - 566 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Grimes IA - 567 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Charles City IA - 559 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Orange City IA - 579 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Clarinda IA - 560 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Manchester IA - 576 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County IA - 563 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Tiffin IA - 588 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Algona IA - 551 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Eldridge IA - 564 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Independence IA - 570 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Ames IA - 552 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Pella IA - 582 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Le Mars IA - 575 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - City of Sergeant Bluff IA - 585 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Central Lyon Comm School District - 592 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Linn-Mar Comm School District - 597 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - George-Little Rock Comm School District - 596 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Sioux City Comm School District - 599 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Dubuque Comm School District - 595 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Columbus Comm School District - 593 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Southeastern Community College - 606 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - University of Iowa - 608 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Iowa Western Community College - 605 - CM-X2
Iowa Open Records Request - Southwestern Community College - 607 - CM-X2

11 attachments

-  **Record Request - 1686700206365.pdf**
95K
-  **Cipher Phoenix Mail - Electronic Service - Iowa Open Records Request.pdf**
74K
-  **Record Request - 1686700018752.pdf**
94K
-  **PRR 3187 Invoice.pdf**
197K
-  **Record Request - 1686700180772.pdf**
94K
-  **Cipher Phoenix Mail - Public records requestfsd.pdf**
66K
-  **Unnamed attachment.pdf**
21K
-  **Cipher Phoenix Mail - Iowa Open Records Request - Greene County IA - 503 - CM-X2- Status Request - 01 of 02.pdf**
81K
-  **Record Request - 1686700223126.pdf**
94K
-  **Iowa Open Records Request - Update - Michael J Merritt - 31 JUL 2023.pdf**
89K
-  **Record Request - 1686700007298.pdf**
94K

E: ** External Email Alert ** Fwd: The Form of the Flying Dutchman

message

Roberts Nicole <nroberts@dps.state.ia.us>

Fri, Jul 14, 2023 at 11:03 AM

1: "Eckley, Erika" <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>

2: Waymire Patrick <waymire@dps.state.ia.us>, Callaway Chris <callaway@dps.state.ia.us>, Glas Laura <glas@dps.state.ia.us>

Good Morning –

The below email was received. We have shared this information with OCIO and the Iowa State Patrol for their awareness.

Cyber related concerns can be directed to can be directed to OCIO also in the future:

<https://ocio.iowa.gov/>

Thanks,

Nikki

Nicole "Nikki" Roberts

Criminal Intelligence Analyst

Division of Intelligence and Fusion Center

Iowa Department of Public Safety

215 East 7th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0049

Local (515) 725-6316

Toll (800) 308-5983

Fax (515) 725-6320

Non-secure email: nroberts@dps.state.ia.us

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From: Eckley, Erika <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:03 PM

To: intinfo <intinfo@dps.state.ia.us>

Subject: ** External Email Alert ** Fwd: The Form of the Flying Dutchman

****External Email Alert**** This email is from outside DPS. DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you expected them. If unsure please forward to ITOC for review.

I am uncertain if this is the appropriate division or if there is a better place to reach out for some assistance, so please let me know if there is.

Michael Merritt communicates almost on a daily basis with IPiB in the fashion similar to below. (This is actually much shorter and lucid than most.) I have some cyber security concerns with his links and attachments. I especially worry about this database he says he is building which sounds like he is trying to be able to search all of the electronic records for all these entities or that it could create some security risks if he collects information about where and how records are stored online. I don't know if he is capable of collecting such information or if this is part of some of his mental health issues. He has said that he had extensive computer and networking experience in the Navy.

IPIB does not seem to have any authority or ability to address anything like this, so I am asking for any guidance or assistance you can provide on what limits we should put to ensure protection for government entities. It is possible that this is not anything that I need to worry about, if so, please let me know that as well.

Thank you for any assistance or direction you can provide.

Erika Eckley, Executive Director

Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB)

From: Michael Merritt <cipher.hunter@ciphphoenix.com>

Date: Mon, Jul 10, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Subject: The Form of the Flying Dutchman

To: Eckley, Erika <erika.eckley@iowa.gov>

Cc: Scott Nicholson <snicholson@jaspercoatty.org>, Doug Cupples <dcupples@jasperia.org>, Brandon Talsma <btalsma@jasperia.org>, John Halferty <jhalferty@jaspersheriff.org>, <robb@newtongov.org>, <chrisw@newtongov.org>, <michaelh@newtongov.org>, <evelyng@newtongov.org>, <melissad@newtongov.org>, <craigt@newtongov.org>, <randye@newtongov.org>, <markh@newtongov.org>, <vickiw@newtongov.org>, <jcrc@iowa.gov>, <dciinfo@dps.state.ia.us>, <webteam@ag.iowa.gov>, <waynew@newtongov.org>, Malt Brick <Malt.Brick@brickgentrylaw.com>, <dave.brick@brickgentrylaw.com>, <jim.brick@brickgentrylaw.com>, <steve.brick@brickgentrylaw.com>, <stephanie.drey@brickgentrylaw.com>, <nolden.gentry@brickgentrylaw.com>, Liz Bennett <liz.bennett@legis.iowa.gov>, Tony Bisignano <tony.bisignano@legis.iowa.gov>, Nate Boulton <nate.boulton@legis.iowa.gov>, Mike Bousset <mike.bousset@legis.iowa.gov>, Waylon Brown <waylon.brown@legis.iowa.gov>, Claire Celsi <claire.celsi@legis.iowa.gov>, Mark Costello <mark.costello@legis.iowa.gov>, Chris Cournoyer <chris.cournoyer@legis.iowa.gov>, Dan Dawson <dan.dawson@legis.iowa.gov>, rocky.dewitt@legis.iowa.gov <rocky.dewitt@legis.iowa.gov>, Adrian Dickey <adrian.dickey@legis.iowa.gov>, Molly Donahue <molly.donahue@legis.iowa.gov>, William A. Dotzler Jr. <bill.dotzler@legis.iowa.gov>, Dawn Driscoll <dawn.driscoll@legis.iowa.gov>, Jeff Edler <jeff.edler@legis.iowa.gov>, Lynn Evans <lynn.evans@legis.iowa.gov>, Julian B. Garrett <julian.garrett@legis.iowa.gov>, Eric Giddens <eric.giddens@legis.iowa.gov>, Jesse Green <jesse.green@legis.iowa.gov>, Kerry Gruenhagen <kerry.gruenhagen@legis.iowa.gov>, Dennis Guth <dennis.guth@legis.iowa.gov>, Pam Jochum <pam.jochum@legis.iowa.gov>, Mike Klimesh <mike.klimesh@legis.iowa.gov>, Izaah Knox <izaah.knox@legis.iowa.gov>, <izaah.knox@legis.iowa.gov>, Carrie Koelker <carrie.koelker@legis.iowa.gov>, Tim Kraayenbrink <tim.kraayenbrink@legis.iowa.gov>, Mark S. Lofgren <mark.lofgren@legis.iowa.gov>, Charlie McClintock <charlie.mcdintock@legis.iowa.gov>, Janet Petersen <janet.petersen@legis.iowa.gov>, Herman C. Quirnbach <herman.quirnbach@legis.iowa.gov>, Jeff Reichman <jeff.reichman@legis.iowa.gov>, David D. Rowley <david.rowley@legis.iowa.gov>, Ken Rozenboom <ken.rozenboom@legis.iowa.gov>, Sandy Salmon <sandy.salmon@legis.iowa.gov>, Jason Schultz <jason.schultz@legis.iowa.gov>, Tom Shipley <tom.shipley@legis.iowa.gov>, Amy Sinclair <amy.sinclair@legis.iowa.gov>, Annette Sweeney <annette.sweeney@legis.iowa.gov>, Jeff Taylor <jeff.taylor@legis.iowa.gov>, Todd E. Taylor <todd.taylor@legis.iowa.gov>, Sarah Trone Garriott <sarah.trone.garriott@legis.iowa.gov>, Zach Wahls <zach.wahls@legis.iowa.gov>, scott.webster@legis.iowa.gov <scott.webster@legis.iowa.gov>, Janice Weiner <janice.weiner@legis.iowa.gov>, <janice.weiner@legis.iowa.gov>, chunter@registermedia.com <chunter@registermedia.com>, Cherielynn Westrich <cherielynn.westrich@legis.iowa.gov>, Jack Whitver <jack.whitver@legis.iowa.gov>, Cindy Winckler <cindy.winckler@legis.iowa.gov>, Brad Zaun <brad.zaun@legis.iowa.gov>, Dan Zumbach <dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>

Executive Director Eckley:

I will be donating a public database I built while being treated at the US Department of Veterans Affairs Des Moines, IA Medical Center for 6 weeks for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) trauma and symptoms that have caused me to isolate myself for the last 5 years of my life.

This database will provide the Iowa Public Information Board a dynamic lookup and verification of where the following government bodies store and preserve their digital public records.

-All Iowa State Agencies

-All Iowa Counties

-Top 100 Iowa Municipalities (Will expand in the future. At the same time, evidence indicates municipalities smaller than this generally utilize ISP provided infrastructure to save tax dollars. (Preliminary Conclusion))

-All Iowa Public School Districts

This database provides a dynamic lookup in the event a government body has changed providers for verification purposes.

I respectfully submit that when the state makes the decision to store its data on third-party commercial infrastructure or software the state has forfeited its ability to communicate a fee that evidence indicates is possibly only consistent with its internal desires. Given the evidence that the majority of all Iowa Government Bodies utilize either Microsoft 365 or Google Workspace to store and preserve its government body data. I respectfully submit it is the Iowa Public Information Board's responsibility to ensure that the citizens of Iowa are provided records Section 2 of Article 1 and Iowa Code Chapter 22 have determined they have a right to with a consistent fee in accordance with Iowa Code Section 22.3. An Iowa Government Body should never have the ability to dictate a price point that economically elevates a public record out of reach of the citizens they govern that Section 2 of Article 1 communicates maintain political power over the State of Iowa. Especially when they do not have physical custody of the cloud-based infrastructure storing the requested data. In the next year I will be producing a public declaration supported by evidence showing the existence of the invisible subsection of Iowa Code Section 22.7 utilized for public records evidence indicates the State of Iowa desires to conceal: The elevation of the fee allegedly in accordance with Iowa Code Section 22.3 above what the average citizen can afford for a public record that the state desires not to release. At the same time, the State covertly produces evidence of establishing a fee that is not ethically consistent with Iowa Code Section 22.3.

"In my day a Sys Admin was responsible for the hardware and the software on their network. Now all you have to do is login to someone else's infrastructure and make policy."

-Said an old Salty IT nobody has heard of

My work is for the purpose of protecting the rights of others that were denied to my children and I by what evidence indicates are unethical parties only invested in safeguarding their own lives, political power, and career paths.

Everything I accomplish I do while serving my Lord Jesus Christ to protect the citizens I have served since 1997. Everything I accomplish represents his glory. I am nothing more than a writer that provides evidence of the Truth with no name and no face that died in a dark town home in the City of Newton, IA in 2019 after realizing everyone that I turned to for help had thrown me away as I lost my children and my life within the country that I was returning home to after serving it for twenty years.

<https://cipherphoenix.com/2023/07/10/the-form-of-the-flying-dutchman/>

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer

Founder: cipherphoenix.com

Creative Writer/Musician

Information Warfare Specialist

Information Systems Manager

PO BOX 187

Newton, IA 50208

"Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay."

Cipher Hunter