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Scott G. Weber, Clark, Clark Co.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR THE COUNTY OF CLARK

OLIVER ORJIAKO,

Petitioner.

No. 16 2 00873 2

٧.

CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON,

Respondent.

COMPLAINT FOR DISCLOSURE OF PUBLIC RECORDS

COMES NOW, petitioner OLIVER ORJIAKO, by and through his attorneys, the Law Offices of Gregory D. Ferguson, PC, and Gregory D. Ferguson, for his complaint against respondent, and alleges as follows:

Nature of the Case

This legal action for disclosure of public records is brought on behalf of petitioner, Oliver Orjiako, to require Clark County Washington to comply with the mandates of *Nissen v. Pierce County*, 183 Wn.2d 863 (2015). The respondent County has (1) failed to supply the required affidavit signifying that a comprehensive search of Councilor David Madore's cell phone was performed, (2) failed to provide all responsive text messages (and attachments), and (3) permitted Councilor Madore to delete or otherwise destroy public records after being served with the public records request at issue in this case, and after having received a notice to preserve evidence ("litigation hold"). Further,

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the court should order a forensic review of Councilor David Madore's personal iPhone to determine what responsive records remain, and to what extend he has permitted the destruction of public records.

There is no legal justification for respondent's actions and thus maximum penalties should be awarded of \$100 per day for each day Councilor Madore delays providing the mandatory affidavit, \$100 a day per text message withheld, and monetary and other sanctions for improper destruction of public records together with an award of petitioner's attorney's fees and costs of suit.

The Public Records Request for Councilor Madore's Text Messages

1. On March 31, 2016, petitioner, through his legal counsel, made a request to respondent Clark County for the following records:

All text messages from Councilor David Madore's personal cell phone sent or received during his term in elected office relating in any way to Clark County business, i.e. pertaining to or referencing the conduct of County government or "the performance of any governmental or proprietary function".

- 2. The written request cited controlling Washington Supreme Court case law, *Nissen v. Pierce County*, 183 Wn.2d 863, requiring public employees who use personal cell phones to turn over text messages relating to the conduct of government in response to public records requests.
 - 3. The scope of the request was unambiguous:

The *Nissen* court emphasized that text messages from a public official's private cell phone qualify as public records "if they contain any information that refers to or impacts the actions, processes, and functions of [County] government." This request by its nature, as noted by the *Nissen* Court, "casts a broad net" for such information.

The petitioner's public records request is attached hereto as "Exhibit "A".

The Washington Supreme Court Case of Nissen v. Pierce County

- 4. In *Nissen v. Pierce County* (opinion filed 8/27/2015) the Washington Supreme Court held that an elected prosecuting attorney's text messages were public records subject to disclosure to the extent that they related to county business or "the performance of any governmental or proprietary function".
- 5. Further, the *Nissen* Court formalized a procedure whereby a public employee may satisfy her or his legal duty to search their personal cell phone for public records. The procedure requires supplying an affidavit signed under oath signifying that a good faith search was conducted and that any text messages not provided in response to the request are unrelated to the conduct of government.
- 6. At some point following the *Nissen* decision, respondent Clark County developed a form affidavit to be signed by each employee in circumstances where a public records request targeted text messages from a private cell phone. The County's form affidavit is attached hereto as "Exhibit B".

A Notice to Preserve Electronic Evidence is Served

- 7. On March 15, 2016, petitioner filed a whistleblower and discrimination complaint with County Human Resources implicating Councilor David Madore.
- 8. The same day the County received petitioner's public records request,
 March 31, 2016, petitioner's counsel also served a notice to preserve evidence
 ("litigation hold"). The litigation hold is attached hereto as "Exhibit C".
- 9. The purpose of the litigation hold was to "ensure that all documents, data, and tangible things . . . [were] properly retained by County officials, including and specifically by Councilor David Madore, and not destroyed or altered in any manner."

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- 10. The litigation hold called for the immediate preservation of, among other things, all "data and text messages relating to each cell phone account Councilor Madore has utilized since running for office to the present." Emphasis added.
- 11. Further, the County was notified of its duty to preserve all records including Madore's cell phone data "in electronic format with metadata intact," regardless of whether hard copies of that information exist[.]" Emphasis added.

Madore Deletes Original Texts from His Cell Phone Following Service of the Public Records Request and Litigation Hold

- 12. Upon information and belief, Councilor Madore was notified of petitioner's whistleblower and discrimination complaint and the service of the litigation hold at or around the time each was served upon the County.
- 13. On or about April 9, 2016, Councilor Madore emailed a sampling of text messages from his personal iPhone phone to his email, and forwarded them again by email to a County public records coordinator as .pdf attachments, stating: "I have deleted them from my phone." Email from Councilor Madore attached as Exhibit "D".
- 14. Notwithstanding the specific terms of the litigation hold, respondent Clark County permitted Councilor Madore to alter the nature of, and delete, public records, and to disturb the electronic metadata associated with the original cell phone text messages.

Councilor Madore Refuses to Sign a Nissen Affidavit

15. Despite repeated requests by County staff, Councilor Madore was unwilling to sign a sworn affidavit regarding the search of his cell phone for public records.

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- 16. Upon information and belief, Councilor Madore balked at signing the affidavit under oath because he had, in fact, not conducted a diligent search in good faith, had not provided all potentially responsive text messages, and had improperly deleted public records and electronic information from his personal cell phone.
- 17. County legal counsel emailed the *Nissen* decision to Councilor Madore on April 14, 2016 along with another copy of the required affidavit for his signature.

 Notwithstanding, Madore again refused to sign the affidavit.
- 18. On or about April 20, 2016 respondent County provided petitioner's counsel with text messages from Madore's personnel cell phone totaling a mere 30 pages for the entire period of the request—January 2, 2013 to May 31, 2016—that covered over three (3) years and three months of his active time in elected office.
- 19. The sampling of texts forwarded via email to the records coordinator and then deleted from Madore's cell phone contained only one brief text exchange for all of 2013. Similarly, no text messages were provided for all of 2014.
- 20. Final agency action occurred in connection with petitioner's public records request on or about April 21, 2016.
- 21. Upon information and belief, respondent and Councilor Madore are currently in violation of the Public Records Act and the holding in *Nissen*, and continue to withhold an unknown number of text messages that may be responsive to petitioner's public records request and that still reside on the cell phone.

Petitioner's Right to Judicial Review

22. RCW 42.56.550 provides that any agency action denying access to public records or inspection and copying, or denying an adequate response to such a request is subject to judicial review, and that:

The burden of proof shall be on the agency to establish

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that refusal to permit public inspection and copying is in accordance with a statute that exempts or prohibits disclosure in whole or in part of specific information or records.

23. RCW 42.56.550 also states that the court shall not defer to any determination made by the agency but shall review the matter *de novo*. In addition, the court must take into account the public policy in favor of disclosure and may examine any record *in camera*.

[C]ourts shall take into account the policy of this chapter that free and open examination of public records is in the public interest, even though such examination may cause inconvenience or embarrassment to public officials or others. Courts may examine any record in camera in any proceeding brought under this section.

RCW 42.56.550(3).

24. Significantly, RCW 42.56.040 proclaims:

The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies that serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may maintain control over the instruments that they have created. This chapter shall be liberally construed and its exemptions narrowly construed to promote this public policy and to assure that the public interest will be fully protected. In the event of conflict between the provisions of this chapter and any other act, the provisions of this chapter shall govern.

Petitioner's Right to Conduct Discovery

25. Deposition discovery and written discovery is allowed in public records cases. *Neighborhood Alliance of Spokane County v. County of Spokane*, 172 Wn.2d 702 (2011). This is typically the case in situations where the adequacy of the search is in question. "[T]he focus of the inquiry is not whether responsive documents do in fact

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- 26. Petitioner is entitled to conduct full discovery, to include the taking of depositions under oath, into the scope of the search for responsive public records by the respondent County and its employees and elected officials, including Councilor Madore.
 - 27. Petitioner is entitled to conduct full discovery, to include the taking of depositions under oath, into whether additional text messages or public records have been deleted or destroyed.
 - 28. Petitioner is entitled to conduct full discovery to include a forensic evaluation of Councilor Madore's iPhone (CR 34 inspection) at the County's expense, and to determine what responsive records remain and/or have been deleted from Councilor Madore's iPhone or other devices, and to include in camera review by the court if warranted.

Statutory Penalties Attorneys' Fees Are Mandatory

- 29. RCW 42.56.550(4) provides that any person who prevails against an agency in any action seeking the right to obtain, inspect or copy any public record or the right to receive a response within a reasonable amount of time **shall** be awarded all costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees. Emphasis added.
- 30. The prevailing requester must also be awarded an amount imposed as a statutory penalty against the agency of up to \$100 per record for each day that the requestor remains in violation of the PRA or has been denied the right to inspect or copy a public record or denied an adequate response.

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- 31. Respondent's opposition to the mandates of the PRA, failure to provide a *Nissen* affidavit, and destruction or alteration of public records warrants a mandatory award of penalties and attorneys' fees. See *Yousoufian v. Office of Ron Sims, King County Exec.*, 152 Wn.2d 421, 433, 98 P.3d 463 (2004)(Once a violation of the PRA is found penalties are mandatory).
- 32. Awarding a per-page penalty (or here, per text message) may be warranted. See Wade's Eastside Gun Shop v. Department of Labor and Industries, ____ Wn.2d ___ (3/24/2016).
- 33. Such award of fees should be calculated with a loadstar multiplier. Sargent v. The Seattle Police Department, 167 Wn. App. 1; 260 P.3d 1006; 2011 Wash. App. LEXIS 2164 (2011)(The lodestar method is the accepted approach for determining the amount to award in attorney fees under RCW 42.56.550(4). A court does not abuse its discretion by using the lodestar method to calculate an award).

Prayer for Relief

WHEREFORE, petitioner prays for judgment against CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON as follows:

- 1. An order that the mandates of *Nissen v. Pierce County* be fulfilled and an adequate response provided;
- 2. An order that an independent forensic review of Councilor Madore's iPhone be permitted at the County's expense to determine content and whether records have been altered or deleted;
- 3. An order that all text messages residing on Councilor Madore's cell phone be made immediately available to petitioner or provided to the court for in camera review for a determination of whether they "contain any information that refers to or impacts the actions, processes, and functions of [County] government" or bear upon the governance

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4. An award to petitioner of all costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred in connection with efforts to obtain the records, as provided in RCW 42.56.550(4); and

5. An award to petitioner of monetary penalties pursuant to RCW 42.56.550(4) of \$100 per day per record (or per text message withheld) for each day since the date of the request that records have been withheld, or until respondent provides an adequate response that complies with the PRA.

DATED: 29 April, 2016

GREGORY D. FERGUSON, WSBA No. 21866

Attorney for Petitioner/Oliver Orjiako

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EMPLOYMENT LAW, OPEN GOVERNMENT & CIVIL LITIGATION

March 31, 2016

Via Email [Mindy.Lamberton@clark.wa.gov]

Mindy Lamberton Clark County Prosecutor's Office

Re:

Public Records Request Re: Madore Text Messages

Dear Ms. Lamberton:

Please accept this letter as a request for public records pursuant to Washington's Public Records Act, RCW 42.56. This request is directed to you based upon your prior indication that requests relating to potential litigation are ultimately directed to you.

We hereby request all text messages from Councilor David Madore's personal cell phone sent or received during his term in elected office relating in any way to Clark County business, i.e. pertaining to or referencing the conduct of County government or "the performance of any governmental or proprietary function". See *Nissen v. Pierce County*, 183 Wn.2d 863 (2015). The *Nissen* court emphasized that text messages from a public official's private cell phone qualify as public records "if they contain any information that refers to or impacts the actions, processes, and functions of [County] government." This request by its nature, as noted by the *Nissen* Court, "casts a broad net" for such information.

Please notify my office of any copy charges in advance. We prefer to receive the records electronically. Time is of the essence. Thank you for your prompt attention.

Very truly.

Gregory D. Ferguson Attorney at Law

GDF:bm

cc: client

EXHIBIT

112 W 11th Street, Suite 100 – Vancouver WA 98660 Tele: 360.906.1167/Fax: 360.695.5800 Email: greg@greg-ferguson.com Web: www.greg-ferguson.com

In the matter of a Public Record Request	Affidavit of:
Pursuant to RCW 42.56	Councilor David Madore,
RE: Text Messages on Personal Cell Phone,	Regarding search of a Personal Communication Device
Requester: Greg Ferguson	
STATE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF CLARK	
I, David Madore, being first duly sworn, upon	oath, depose and state:
1. I received notice of the above captioned	d public record request;
2. I understand that the record request see	ks:
his term in elected office relating in any way	ore's personal cell phone sent or received during y to Clark County business, i.e. pertaining to or ent or "the performance of any governmental or
I am the owner of personal/private communica	tion devices, described as:
	•
 I have conducted a diligent search, in g devices for records responsive to the ab 	ood faith, of the above-described communication pove-captioned public records request.
4. As a result of my search, I find:	
There are no records related to the gove	ernance of Clark County on any of the devices.
There are records related to the govern to the above captioned request, or they	ance of Clark County, but they are not responsive are not public records, for the following reasons:





	am providing a portion of those recor	rnance of Clark County on the personal devices. I
	evaluation and production to the above Records Act, RCW 42.56. The remains	ve-captioned requester pursuant to the Public ining records are not responsive to the above- blic records, for the following reasons:
	am providing all of the records to the captioned requester pursuant to the P	
	The requested records, or portions to publicly available is attached to this a	hereof, are publicly available and can be found at Any record in my possession that is not affidavit.
		Affiant
SUBS	CRIBED AND SWORN to before me	e this day of April, 2016.
		NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of Washington, residing at: My commission expires:

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EMPLOYMENT, OPEN GOVERNMENT & CIVIL LITIGATION

March 31, 2016

Francine Reis Director of Human Resources Clark County, Washighton 1300 Franklin St., 5th Floor Vancouver, WA 98660

Re: Oliver Orjiako – Notice to Preserve Evidence: Litigation Hold

Dear Director Reis:

I write to ensure that all documents, data, and tangible things pertaining to my client's claims are properly retained by County officials, including and specifically by Councilor David Madore, and not destroyed or altered in any manner.

The information identified below will likely be requested for production in its native state in connection with future litigation. The duty to preserve potentially discoverable information ("litigation hold") extends beyond any County-issued devices and includes information retained on Councilor Madore's smart phone(s), personal computers or electronic devices, and that may from time-to-time be posted on his Facebook pages or other social media sites.

Those social media sites, and specifically Councilor Madore's Facebook page (his purported "newspaper"), should be regularly backed up on a separate server. Councilor Madore should immediately refrain from deleting any content therefrom, including wall posts, comments, "likes", private posts or private messages.

Further information that must be preserved includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- All email accounts Councilor Madore has used since running for public office to present, and all emails sent or received through each account.
- All data and text messages relating to each cell phone account Councilor Madore has utilized since running for office to the present.
- The hard drive of any personal computer used by Councilor Madore from 2010 to the present, whether desktop or laptop, back-up drives, thumb drives, or other computer accessory.
- The hard drive of any personal computer used by Councilor Mielke from 2010 to present, whether desktop or laptop, back-up drives, thumb drives, or other computer accessory.

Litigation Hold Clark County, WA/Councilor David Madore March 31, 2016

- Any electronic tablet device Councilor Madore has used since 2010.
- Any electronic tablet device Councilor Mielke has used since 2010.
- All photographs, videos, voicemails, recordings, or other tangible items reflecting a likeness or voice recording of Councilor Madore, Councilor Mielke, former County Commissioner Steve Stuart or Oliver Orjiako.
- All applications, resumes, CVs, emails, written directives, or other materials related to any application for employment, inquiry or hiring decision regarding the employment of Don Benton, Peter Silliman, Chris Clifford and any other County employee hired, or proposed to be hired, by or with the recommendation or support of Councilor Madore, Councilor Mielke or Don Benton.
- All email to, from or copied to Councilor David Madore relating in any way to Oliver Orjiako, the County's Planning Department or its staff, GIS Department or its staff, and/or relating to Madore's proposed "Alternative 4", including all communications with outside consultants.
- All documents, emails, correspondence, or any other materials related to any staff complaint or report of improper conduct by Councilor Madore or Councilor Mielke.
- Any flyers, applications, filings, documents, emails, complaints or other paper or electronic materials related to appointment to, or campaign for, political or public office by Councilor Madore (including but not limited to all emails to and from supporters, political action committees, advocacy groups or campaign committee members).
- Any documents, emails, statements, disclosure forms and evidence of pledges or payments related to any funding or financial support by Councilor Madore to any candidate for public office, political action committee, or any media, public relations or advocacy group.
- All notes, diaries, journals, blog posts, or other written records or recollections written or prepared by Councilor Madore since 2009, whether regarding his employment with Clark County, other matters involving Clark County, his personal life, or any other public or private matters.
- All electronic or other calendars, calendaring programs, scheduling programs and file fragments for Councilor David Madore, used privately or in connection with his elected office.

To the extent any of the above-referenced materials may be subject to attorney-client or work product privileges asserted by the County, Mr. Orjiako requests that such records still be maintained and not altered or destroyed for purposes of producing privilege logs to any such related documents or items and in the event of disputes among the parties regarding the applicability of any such privileges.

Insofar as Councilor Madore has publicly accused County counsel of potential crimes and other misconduct, any privilege Councilor Madore may have once enjoyed has likely been waived.

Litigation Hold Clark County, WA/Councilor David Madore March 31, 2016

The County and its agents should construe the terms "documents, data, and tangible things" as broadly as that phrase is interpreted under Washington State Superior Court Civil Rule 34, its Federal counterpart, FRCP 34. Furthermore, any potentially discoverable electronic information, to the extent it currently exists as active, archived, deleted or legacy data, should be preserved in electronic format with metadata intact, regardless of whether hard copies of that information exist, and which is contained in any personal computer systems, removable electronic media (such as flash drives), and any other locations.

To the extent that the County or its elected officials' and administrator's practices involve the routine destruction, recycling, relocation, overwriting, or mutilation of potentially discoverable information, then it/they should: (i) halt such processes, or (ii) sequester or remove such material from those processes, or (iii) arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates or copies of such material, suitable for later discovery in the event that Mr. Orjiako requests that material pursuant to the court rules governing discovery.

Failure to preserve (i.e., permit the spoliation of) potentially discoverable information may result in sanctions by a court. Those sanctions may include monetary fines, adverse inference jury instructions, default judgment, or any other relief a court would deem just and appropriate under the circumstances. See e.g., *Zubulake v. UBS Warburg LLC*, 220 F.R.D. 212 (S.D.N.Y. 2003); *Pier 67, Inc. v. King Co.*, 89 Wn.2d 379 (1977); and *Hampson v. Ramer*, 47 Wn. App. 806 (Div. 1, 1987). Moreover, a court can hold an organization's managers personally responsible for failure to preserve relevant evidence. See e.g., *Turner v. Hudson Transit Lines, Inc.*, 142 F.R.D. 68, 72 (S.D.N.Y. 1991); and *Nat'l Assoc. of Radiation Survivors v. Turnage*, 115 F.R.D. 543, 556 (N.D.Cal. 1987). Thus, the County has an affirmative obligation to specifically communicate this litigation hold to any individuals who may be in a position to prevent spoliation of evidence, including Councilor Madore.

This initial duty to preserve potentially discoverable information should remain in full effect until such time as a court modifies that duty, or until final adjudication or resolution of this dispute.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Very truly,

Gregory D. Ferguson Attorney at Law

GDF:bm

CC: Chris Horne, Chief Civil Deputy, Prosecuting Attorney's Office

From: To: LaRocque, Linnea

Subject:

<u>Lamberton</u>, <u>Mindy</u>
All text messages from my iPhone

Date:

Monday, April 11, 2016 8:50:09 AM

Attachments:

CC-Chris Horne.pdf CC-Mike Cook.pdf CC-Rob Klug.pdf David Madore.pdf

Home-Redinger Well Drilling.pdf jeffreytshafer_icloud.com.pdf Pol-Commander Steve Fischer.pdf Pol-David Kelly-SWAAD.pdf Pol-Dr John Barber.pdf

Pol-John McKibbin.pdf Pol-Julie Olson.pdf

Pol-Kevin Peterson Bridge Architect-zz1 (Ann).pdf

Pol-Linda Figg (Richard).pdf Pol-Lisa Schmidt.pdf

Pol-Maria Salazar (Roger).pdf

Pol-Mike Borgess.pdf Pol-Mike Burgess.pdf

Pol-Peter Van Nortwick-Assessor.pdf

Pol-Steve Hornstein.pdf Pol-Wayne Folkers-zz1.pdf

From: Madore, David

Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 9:26 PM **To:** Madore, David; LaRocque, Linnea

Subject: All text messages from my iPhone

Linnea,

I emailed all the text messages from my iPhone to my email account and they are all attached. This is in response to the pending public records request.

Now that they have been retained here, I have deleted them from my phone.

Thank you,

David

