From: Wilson, Adam (SAO)
To: Shauna Sowersby
Subject: RE: Seattle Times media inquiry
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 11:29:00 AM
Attachments: Al Rose msg Jason Beers 01-18-2024.pdf

Shauna,

As you may know, the meeting you referenced was of a group of state agency staff who meet regularly and are involved in records management, particularly responding to public records requests and requests linked to litigation.

The State Auditor's Office believes that government transparency demands prompt and thorough responses to records requests, and those depend on reliable searches of agency records. We have used this meeting to consistently advocate for improvement. However, our tone and choice of words in that meeting were unfortunate. Al Rose later apologized to the meeting organizer for his tenor, while more appropriately restating our legitimate concerns regarding the software used by the state to identify and retrieve public records.

I've attached that email for your reference, as I think it will give you a concise summary of our stance on these issues.

Because these issues do directly touch on the state's work to respond to lawsuits and other sensitive legal matters, we'll decline to give an interview.

Thank you for reaching out. I hope this information helps.

Wilson

From: Shauna Sowersby <ssowersby@seattletimes.com>
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2025 1:20 PM
To: Wilson, Adam (SAO) <wilsona@sao.wa.gov>
Subject: Re: Seattle Times media inquiry

External Email

Hi Adam! Just checking in about this request, thank you!

From: Shauna Sowersby <ssowersby@seattletimes.com>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 2:25 PM
To: adam.wilson@sao.wa.gov <adam.wilson@sao.wa.gov>
Subject: Seattle Times media inquiry

Hi Adam,

I hope you're doing well!

I've attached audio here from a meeting in September 2023 in which Al Rose with the SAO refers to a "cover up" that occurred for more than a year on the state level. I was wondering if someone with the SAO could chat with me more about this issue, or if there's a chance I can talk Al about what he is referring to here in the clip.

09.26.2023 DAUG cover up alrose meeting clip.wav

Appreciate the assist!

Thanks,

Shauna Sowersby
State Politics Reporter
The Seattle Times
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E: ssowersby@seattletimes.com
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