FILED FILED Case No. 14-CV-01304 1 JUL 9 7 2016 2018 JUL - 1 PM 3: 5 2 Pursuant to NRS 239B.030, the undersigned affirms that the following document does not 3 contain the social security number of any person. THIRD JUDICIAL QISTRICT 4 Luke Andrew Busby, Ltd. Nevada State Bar No. 10319 5 216 East Liberty St. Reno, NV 89501 6 775-453-0112 7 luke@lukeandrewbusbyltd.com Attorney for the Petitioners 8 9 IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 10 OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR LYON COUNTY 11 12 COMSTOCK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, 13 JOE McCARTHY 14 Petitioners. 15 16 LYON COUNTY BOARD OF 17 COMMISSIONERS; COMSTOCK MINING INCORPORATED 18 Respondents, 19 20 21 22 PETITIONERS COMSTOCK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AND JOE McCARTHY'S NOTICE OF APPEAL 23 24 Notice is hereby given that the Comstock Residents Association and Joe McCarthy, 25 Petitioners above named, hereby appeal to the Supreme Court of Nevada from the following 26 torders entered in this action: 28 7 200 der Denying Petition, entered on June 14, 2016, attached hereto as Exhibit A.

ERK OF SUPREME COURT

1621159

מבו עו יונואי

Dated: July 1, 2016. Respectfully submitted, $By_{\underline{}}$ Luke Andrew Busby, Ltd. Nevada State Bar No. 10319 216 East Liberty St. Reno, NV 89501 775-453-0112 luke@lukeandrewbusbyltd.com Attorney for the Petitioners

NOTICE OF APPEAL

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Notice of Appeal was served on the parties by personal service and/or mailing a copy thereof on the 1st of July, 2016, by United States mail, postage prepaid to:

Steven B. Rye District Attorney 31 S. Main Street Yerington, NV 89447

Luke Busby, Esq.

Exhibit A

FILED

2016 JUN 14 AM 9: 35

Victoria Towar DEPUTY

IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LYON

COMSTOCK RESIDENT ASSOCIATION AND JOE McCARTHY,

ORDER DENYING

Petitioners.

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LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS et al.

Defendant.

On November 30, 2015, the Petitioner, Comstock Residents Association ("CRA"), filed a Writ of Mandamus requesting this Court to compel Lyon County Commissioners to be in compliance with the provisions of Nevada's Public Records Act ("NPRA"). On January 4, 2016, Respondents, Lyon County, filed a Response. On April 14, 2016, the Court held a Hearing on the matter and took the issue under submission

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

CRA brings this action to compel the Lyon County Board of County Commissioners to comply with their nondiscretionary duty under the NPRA in response to a request for all records related to Comstock Mining Inc's. ("CMI") application with Lyon County. Petitioner contends Lyon County refuses to produce responsive public records created or received in the course of their public duties located on individual commissioner's private electronic devices.

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27 28 CMI filed an application with Lyon County to change land use designations zoning within Silver City from more urban to more rural, to allow mining exploration. The County held a public meeting and heard hours of testimony before granting the application.

CRA contends during the County's review of CMI's application, the commissioners and other members of Lyon County communicated with CMI representatives through their personal devices.

CMI also contends that Lyon County Commissioner, Vita Keller, communicated with CMI using her personal devices because the record is absent with regard to her last minute proposal during the hearing. She has admitted that these conversations took place.

On February 11, 2014, Petitioners submitted to the Lyon County Board of County Commissions and Lyon County staff, a request for all public records pursuant to the NPRA related to CMI's Application for Master Plan Amendment and Zoning change. The request included disclosure of all records of communication regarding CMI's application, to or from the Lyon County Commissioners and CMI representatives, regardless of whether such communication occurred on devices owned by Lyon County or personally by the Lyon County Commissioners.

Lyon County responded to the Petitioner's demand by disclosing all of the records relating to the CMI application. Lyon County did not disclose private cell phone and c-mail records owned by the commissioners. Lyon County explained the commissioners do not retain county issued cell phones. Private cell phone and e-mail records, personally owned by the commissioners, are not maintained by Lyon County.

It should be noted the request made by the Petitioners has language that includes the employees of Lyon County, not just the Commissioners.

QUESTION PRESENTED

Should the Court compel the Lyon County commissioners to disclose their personal e-mail and cell phone records to CRA relating to the CMI application?

The Petitioners argue the NPRA applies to all "public records" regardless of the means of creation. According to the Petitioners, the provisions of NRS § 239.010 requires a broad interpretation that any elected official who uses his/her personal devices to conduct public business must disclose the records created as "public records." The Petitioners cite to Nevada case law stating the Nevada Supreme Court has instructed that all governmental entities public books and public records must remain open to the public, unless "otherwise declared by law to be confidential." NRS 239.010. The purpose of this statute is to promote a transparent governmental entity.

The Petitioners assert the NPRA defines a "governmental entity" as an elected or appointed official of this State. NRS § 239.005. Thus the plain language of the NPRA defines "governmental entity" to include elected officers of a political subsidiary. Id.

The Petitioners assert this is a straight forward interpretation of the statute. They argue Lyon County's interpretation allows public officials to conduct public business on their personal devices, thereby avoiding compliance with the statute. The Petitioners assert that the language of the statute compels Lyon County Commissioners to disclose their personal cell phone and e-mail records. The Petitioners state when a statute is plain and unambiguous, the Court must give the language its ordinary meaning. Nevada State Democratic Party v. Nevada Republican Party, 256 P.3d 1, 4 (2011). The Petitioners then contend the Court should disregard the Respondents claim that the administrators, or the county office, do not possess such records. The Petitioners state the NPRA does not make any distinction between an administrator's office records and the records of elected officials.

The Petitioners cite to other jurisdictions holdings that individual records are public records.

Lyon County makes the following arguments. The Respondents assert private e-mail and cell phone records of elected officials are not "public records" because: (1) they are not "public records" under the NRPA; (2) privacy interests weigh against disclosure; (3) practical limitations preclude the

 Court from declaring all records "public records"; (4) the records are confidential under the deliberative process privilege.

The Respondents stipulate that: NRS chapter 239 requires all books and "public records" of a governmental entity be open for inspections; the provisions of the NPRA are designed to promote governmental accountability; nondisclosure is the exception to the general rule; and elected officials fall under the provisions of the NPRA. However, the Respondents state the issue is whether the specific information requested is "public record."

The Respondents first argue private cell phone and email records are not "public records" under the NPRA because: a) "public records" must be paid for with public money; b) the records sought are not open to public inspection; c) the records are not in control of the Commissioners or County; d) the communications are not official actions, and are not required by law to be public; and e) Nevada law does not support that the requested documents be defined as "public records."

The Respondents argue the NPRA does not define "public record." The Respondents cite to the Nevada Administrative Code which defined "public record" as "a record of a local governmental entity that is created, received or kept in the performance of a duty and paid for with public money." However, this definition was repealed in October of 2014. The Respondents argue at the time of the request it was clear what a "public record" was. Further, private e-mails and cell phones of the Lyon County Commissioners are not paid for with public money. Therefore, they are not "public records."

The Respondents state the Commissioners are entitled to rely on the law as it existed at the time. Ruling in the alterative creates a burden on the government which does not exist.

The Respondents assert "public records" must be left open at all times for inspection by the public. The Respondents argue private cell phone and/or e-mail records are not "public records" because they are not on the books thus not open for inspection. The Respondents further claim that interpreting the statute this way would require all "private" records of a government official to be subject to the NPRA rendering an absurd result.

The Respondents cite to NRS § 239.010(4) which states an officer or employee who has legal custody or control of a record shall not refuse to provide a copy. The Respondents claim the specific information requested is not in the office's control, thus they are not required to produce that information.

The Respondents argue notes or any communication between the Commissioners with clients or other parties do not fall under the provisions of NAC § 239.101. The statute states an office or department of a local governmental entity is defined as an "office, department, board, commission, committee, agency or any other subdivision of a local government entity where records and made received or kept." NAC § 239.061. "Non-record materials" is any other documentation that does not serve as the record of an official action of a local governmental entity. NAC § 239.051. The Respondents argue private e-mail and cell phone records cannot be records because holding that they are render any notes or communication of any Lyon County employee as a "public record."

In support of this claim, the Respondents cite to a string of Nevada cases, which does not answer the question of private e-mail accounts or private cell phones. They state the Petitioners are asking the Court to do something that has not been done in Nevada before. The Respondents claim such a question should be left to the legislature to decide.

The Respondents make their sixth argument that privacy interest weigh against disclosure. They cite to NRS § 241.015 which states the Nevada Open Meeting Law permits private conversation about county business by less than a majority of its members. They assert this could have a chilling effect on citizens who wish to exercise their constitutional right and talk to their representatives.

Finally, the Respondents claim the records are confidential pursuant to the deliberative process privilege. <u>DR Partners v. Bd. of Cty. Comm'rs of Clark Cty.</u>, 116 Nev. 616, 619, 6 P.3d 465, 467 (2000).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND FACT

The Court agrees with the Respondent's arguments regarding this matter. The Court concludes that the Petitioners are asking for records which are not paid for with public money. Specifically they are requesting the Lyon County Commissioner's private cell phone and e-mail records. These record are created by a third party phone and internet provider paid for by the Commissioner's private accounts. Thus, the records in question where not paid for with public money which tends to show that these record are not public.

Further, the Court agrees the records sought are not open to public inspection. Any member of the public could inspect the records at the County Commissioner's office. However, not even the County

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Commissioner employees themselves can inspect the Commissioner's personal records. In addition the records sought are not in control of the public agencies.

The Court also agrees the records sought are not official actions of the County. Thus the Petitioners are seeking all communications between the Lyon County Commissioner's and members of the public. Such a request is beyond the provisions of the NPRC.

Finally, The Court does not believe it has authority to order personal information of the Lyon County Commissioners be disclosed to the Petitioners. There are multiple privacy concerns which the Court is concerned with. Such an action must be clearly supported by law which the Court finds it is not. If the legislature intended the provisions of the NPRC to have such reaching consequences, then the Court concludes the Legislature could have easily included language supporting such an assertion.

The Court is aware that this holding may cause public employees to skirt the provisions of the NPRC by conducting business on their private devices. Such a concern is for the Legislature to address.

Therefore, good cause appearing, the Petitioner's Petition is DENIED

Dated this 10th day of June, 2016.

SENIOR DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I, Debor Colmerc, am an employee of the Third Judicial District Court, and that on this date pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I mailed at Yerington, Nevada, a true copy of the foregoing document addressed to:

Lyon County District Attorney's Office 31 S. Main St. Yerington, NV 89447

John Marshall, Esq. 570 Marsh Ave. Reno, NV 89509

DATED: This 14th day of June, 2016.

Debbie Gilmore

1 2

1	Case No. 14-CV-01304 FILED Pursuant to NRS 239R 030, the modes			
2	Pursuant to NRS 239B.030, the undersigned			
3	affirms that the following document does not contain the social security number of any person.			
4	Luke Andrew Busby, Ltd. Nevada State Bar No. 10319 TANYA SCEIRINE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT			
5				
6	216 East Liberty St. Reno, NV 89501			
7	775-453-0112 luke@lukeandrewbusbyltd.com			
8	Attorney for the Petitioners			
9				
10				
11	IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT			
12	OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR LYON COUNTY			
13				
14	COMSTOCK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, JOE McCARTHY			
15	Petitioners,			
16	v.			
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18	LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS;			
19				
20	Respondents,			
21				
22				
23	CASE APPEAL STATEMENT			
24	1. Name of appellant filing this case appeal statement: Comstock Residents Association and			
25	Joe McCarthy.			
26				
27	2. Identify the judge issuing the decision, judgment or order appealed from: The			
28	Honorable Steven R. Kosach, Senior Judge.			
- 11				

1	3.	Identify each appellant and counsel:		
2		a. Comstock Residents Association		
3		Counsel: Luke Andrew Busby, Ltd.		
4		Nevada State Bar No. 10319		
5		216 East Liberty St. Reno, NV 89501		
6		775-453-0112		
7		luke@lukeandrewbusbyltd.com		
8		b. Joe McCarthy		
9	4	Counsel: Luke Andrew Busby, Ltd.		
10		Nevada State Bar No. 10319		
11		216 East Liberty St. Reno, NV 89501		
12		775-453-0112		
13		luke@lukeandrewbusbyltd.com		
14				
15	4.	Identify each respondent and counsel:		
16		a. Lyon County Board of Commissioners		
17		Counsel: Steven B. Rye		
18		District Attorney 31 S. Main Street		
19		Yerington, NV 89447		
20	5.	All counsel listed above are licensed to practice in the State of Nevada.		
21	6.	Appellants were represented by retained counsel in the district court.		
22	7.	Appellants are represented by retained counsel on appeal.		
23	8.	Appellants were not granted leave to appear in forma pauperis.		
24	9.			
25		Proceedings commenced in the district court on October 24, 2014.		
26	10.	Comstock Residents Association (CRA) and Joe McCarthy sued Lyon County		
27	over Lyon C	County's denial of their request under the Nevada Public Records Act for records		
28		created by County Commissioners on their personal electronic devices or email		

1	accounts in the course of their performance of public duties when considering Comstock			
2	Mining Inc.'s land use application to reverse longstanding zoning policy. Appellants appeal			
3	from the District Court denial of their Petition for Writ of Mandate, in which the Court declined			
4	to order the production of the records sought by the Petitioners.			
5	11. This case has not been subject of a previous appeal.			
6				
7 8	11 states to issues of chira custody of visitation.			
9	involves no possibility of settlement because the dispute at issue is			
10	primarily a question of law and not of fact.			
11	Dated: July 1, 2016.			
12	Respectfully submitted,			
13				
14	By 2m A Run			
15	Luke Andrew Busby, Ltd. Nevada State Bar No. 10319			
16	216 East Liberty St. Reno, NV 89501			
17	775-453-0112			
18	luke@lukeandrewbusbyltd.com Attorney for the Petitioners			
19				
20				
21				
22				
2324				
25	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
26				
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Case Appeal Statement was served on the parties by personal service and/or by mailing a copy thereof on the fixed day of July, 2016, by United States mail, postage prepaid to:

Steven B. Rye District Attorney 31 S. Main Street Yerington, NV 89447

Luke Busby, Esq.

COMSTOCK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, GAYLE SHERMAN, JOE MCCARTHY, LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISIONERS - COMPLAINT

Case Number: 14-CV-01304

Type: Writ of Mandamus

Status: Closed

Received Date: 10/24/2014 Status Date: 6/14/2016

Agency: Third Judicial District Court

Involvements

Primary Involvements

MCCARTHY, JOE Plaintiff

SHERMAN, GAYLE Plaintiff

LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISIONERS Defendant

COMSTOCK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Plaintiff

Other Involvements

BUSBY, LUKE ANDREW ESQ. Plaintiff's Attorney

RYE, STEPHEN B Defendant's Attorney

Marshall, John Esq. Plaintiff's Attorney, Inactive

Third Judicial District Court (14-CV-01304)

KOSACH, STEVEN Senior Judge Judge

Aberasturi, Leon A. - LAA Dept II - TJDC, Inactive

Charges

1. NRCP 3 ~ COMPLAINT

COMSTOCK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Plaintiff

Disposition: Summary Judgment Dispo Date: 6/14/2016

Lead/Active: True

2. NRCP - RELATED PARTY

MCCARTHY, JOE Plaintiff

Disposition: Summary Judgment Dispo Date: 6/14/2016

Notes: Additional Plaintiff

Lead/Active: False

3. NRCP - RELATED PARTY

SHERMAN, GAYLE Plaintiff

Disposition: Stipulated Dismissal Dispo Date: 8/18/2015 Notes: Additional Plaintiff/Gayle Sherman dismissed 8/18/15

Lead/Active: False

4. NRCP 5 - ANSWER

LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISIONERS Defendant

Disposition: Summary Judgment Dispo Date: 6/14/2016

Lead/Active: False

Case Status History

10/24/2014 3:30:00 PM | Open

6/14/2016 10:14:00 AM | Closed

Documents

10/24/2014 Petition - Filed

Notes: Added from Document Scanning session.

10/24/2014 Civil Cover Sheet - Filed

Notes: Added from Document Scanning session.

10/24/2014 Notice - Filed

Notes: Added from Document Scanning session.

10/24/2014 Other - Filed

Notes: Added from Document Scanning session.

11/3/2014 Order - Filed

Notes: Added from Document Scanning session.

11/3/2014 Other - For Court Use Only



Page 1 of 3

Notes: Emailed to AOC on 11/3/14 11/5/2014 Other - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 11/10/2014 Summons - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 11/10/2014 Proof of Service - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 12/8/2014 Answer - Filed Notes: emailed to Judge Kosach on 03/01/15 4/8/2015 Setting Memo - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 7/8/2015 Other - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 8/18/2015 Stipulation and Order - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 10/29/2015 Letter - For Court Use Only 11/18/2015 Stipulation and Order - Filed 11/30/2015 Other - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 11-30-15 11/30/2015 Other - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 11-30-15 11/30/2015 Other - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 11-30-15 1/4/2016 Exhibit - Filed 1/4/2016 Reply - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 1/28/2016 Other - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 1/29/16 2/1/2016 Request for Submission - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 2/3/16. Added from Document Scanning session. 2/1/2016 Reply - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 2/3/16. Added from Document Scanning session. 2/1/2016 Opposition - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 2/3/16. Added from Document Scanning session. 3/29/2016 Setting Memo - Filed 6/14/2016 Order - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 6/15/2016 Notice of Entry of Order - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 6/16/16. -AA 7/1/2016 Notice - Filed 7/1/2016 Case Appeal Statement - Filed **Events** 11/25/2014 2:30:00 PM | Pre-Trial Hearing | Jury Rm if Crtm not available | Jury Room Peeples, DeAnn Dep. Clerk - DPEEPLES Staff - STAFF Rye, Stephen B. D.A. - X004800 Marshall, John Esq. Cavilia, James R. Esq. KOSACH, STEVEN Senior Judge Notes: Justice Kosach stated Jury Room is fine if no Crtm avail, no Court Clerk needed and doesn't need to be recorded/TI 4/28/2015 3:30:00 PM | Pre-Trial Hearing | CRTM A DEPT IV | Court Room A Peeples, DeAnn Dep. Clerk - DPEEPLES Geurts, Patrick Staff - STAFF Court Room A - CourtRmA Marshall, John Esq. (Plaintiff's Attorney)



RYE, STEPHEN B

KOSACH, STEVEN Senior Judge (Judge)

Notes: Senior Judge Steven Kosach presiding. He did not want JAVS recording. Counsel informed him of status of case. Mr. Marshall has prepared a briefing schedule on stipulated facts; Mr. Rye to review and then it can be submitted for Judge's signature. Mr. Marshall's merits brief due 3rd week of May. Court and counsel discussed dates for hearing on briefs that will be submitted. Matter set for July 1, 2015 @ 10:00 am for 2 hours.

7/1/2015 10:00:00 AM | Motion Hearing | COURT A DEPT IV | Court Room A

Peeples, DeAnn Dep. Clerk - DPEEPLES

Staff - STAFF

Court Room A - CourtRmA

Rye, Stephen B. D.A. - X004800

Marshall, John Esq. (Plaintiff's Attorney)

telephonic

KOSACH, STEVEN Senior Judge (Judge)

Notes: Senior Judge Kosach presiding. Due to conflict, Mr. Marshall will be substituting out of case. He has found new attorney to take case; just has to get signatures for the substitution. Once new attorney is on case, court suggested a conference call be set up between attorneys and court to see how case will proceed.

9/24/2015 11:30:00 AM | Status Hearing | Senior Judge Kosach presiding | Court Room A

Johnson, Orrin Dep D.A.

Geurts, Patrick

Staff - STAFF

Court Room A - CourtRmA

Rye, Stephen B. D.A. - X004800

KOSACH, STEVEN Senior Judge

BUSBY, LUKE ANDREW ESQ.

Notes: Clerk not present and hearing not recorded on JAVS. Per Judge Kosach, counsel agreed to briefing and discovery schedule. Counsel to prepare and submit for signature.

4/14/2016 1:00:00 PM | Motion Hearing | Court Room B

Sceirine, Tanya K - TSCEIRINE

Staff - STAFF

Court Room B - CourtRmB

Rye, Stephen B. D.A. - X004800

Geurts, Patrick Bailiff - X004896

Dragon, Joseph - JOED

BUSBY, LUKE ANDREW ESQ. (Plaintiff's

Attorney)

Notes: Court advised counsel that he did not feel that an evidentiary hearing was needed at this point. Court was familiar with the petition and briefs on file. Court requested counsel to make argument to the court. Court heard statements of Mr. Busby and Mr. Rye. Court took matter under submission

Case No. 14-CV-01304 Dept. IV FILED

2016 JUN 14 AM 9: 34

TANYA SCEIRINE COURT ADMINISTRATOR THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Victoria ToralDEPUTY

IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LYON

COMSTOCK RESIDENT ASSOCIATION AND JOE McCARTHY.

ORDER DENYING PETITION

Petitioners,

VŚ.

LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS et al.

Defendant.

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CRA contends during the County's review of CMI's application, the commissioners and other members of Lyon County communicated with CMI representatives through their personal devices.

CMI also contends that Lyon County Commissioner, Vita Keller, communicated with CMI using her personal devices because the record is absent with regard to her last minute proposal during the hearing. She has admitted that these conversations took place.

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Lyon County responded to the Petitioner's demand by disclosing all of the records relating to the CMI application. Lyon County did not disclose private cell phone and e-mail records owned by the commissioners. Lyon County explained the commissioners do not retain county issued cell phones. Private cell phone and e-mail records, personally owned by the commissioners, are not maintained by Lyon County.

It should be noted the request made by the Petitioners has language that includes the employees of Lyon County, not just the Commissioners.

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND FACT

The Court agrees with the Respondent's arguments regarding this matter. The Court concludes that the Petitioners are asking for records which are not paid for with public money. Specifically they are requesting the Lyon County Commissioner's private cell phone and e-mail records. These record are ereated by a third party phone and internet provider paid for by the Commissioner's private accounts. Thus, the records in question where not paid for with public money which tends to show that these record are not public.

Further, the Court agrees the records sought are not open to public inspection. Any member of the public could inspect the records at the County Commissioner's office. However, not even the County

Commissioner employees themselves can inspect the Commissioner's personal records. In addition the records sought are not in control of the public agencies.

The Court also agrees the records sought are not official actions of the County. Thus the Petitioners are seeking all communications between the Lyon County Commissioner's and members of the public. Such a request is beyond the provisions of the NPRC.

Finally, The Court does not believe it has authority to order personal information of the Lyon County Commissioners be disclosed to the Petitioners. There are multiple privacy concerns which the Court is concerned with. Such an action must be clearly supported by law which the Court finds it is not. If the legislature intended the provisions of the NPRC to have such reaching consequences, then the Court concludes the Legislature could have easily included language supporting such an assertion.

The Court is aware that this holding may cause public employees to skirt the provisions of the NPRC by conducting business on their private devices. Such a concern is for the Legislature to address.

Therefore, good cause appearing, the Petitioner's Petition is DENIED

Dated this 10th day of June, 2016.

ENIOR DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I, Debore Girnore, am an employee of the Third Judicial District Court, and that on this date pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I mailed at Yerington, Nevada, a true copy of the foregoing document addressed to:

Lyon County District Attorney's Office 31 S. Main St. Yerington, NV 89447

John Marshall, Esq. 570 Marsh Ave. Reno, NV 89509

DATED: This 14th day of June, 2016.

Debbie Gilmore

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Case No.	14-CV-01304	
Dent No.	Senior Judge	

The undersigned hereby affirms this document does not contain a social security FILED

2016 JUN 15 PM 2: 30

TANYA SCEIRINE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LYON

COMSTOCK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, JOE McCARTHY,

Plaintiffs/Petitioners.

VS.

number.

LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS et al:

Defendants/Respondents.

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

Please take notice that the Court entered its Order Denying Petition for Writ of Mandamus on June 14, 2016. A copy of the Order is attached hereto.

DATED this <u>/4</u> that day of June, 2016.

STEPHEN B. RYE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

STEPHEN B. RYE DISTRICT ATTORNEY 31 South Main Street Yerington, NV 89447 775-463-6511

Attorney for Respondent/Defendant Lyon County Board of Commissioners

Office of the District Attorney Lyon County, State of Nevada 801 Overland Loop, Suite 308, Dayton, Nevada 89403 - 31 South Main Street, Yerington, Nevada 89447 - 565 East Main Street, Femiey, Nevada

Certificate of Service

The undersigned, an employee of the Lyon County District Attorney, certifies that on the _______ day of June, 2016, a copy of the foregoing Notice of Entry of Order and Order was mailed, postage prepaid, by placing the same in the mail receptacle at Lyon County Administrative Offices, addressed to:

Luke Andrew Busby, Esq. 216 East Liberty St. Reno, NV 89501

Dated this ______ day of June, 2016.

Employee Employee

Case No. 14-CV-01304 **Dept.** IV

FILED

2016 JUN 14 AM 9: 34

TANYA SCEIRINE COURT ADMINISTRATOR THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Victoria TovalDEPUTY

IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LYON

COMSTOCK RESIDENT ASSOCIATION AND JOE McCARTHY,

ORDER DENYING PETITION

Petitioners,

| vs.

LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS et al.

Defendant.

Defendant,

On November 30, 2015, the Petitioner, Comstock Residents Association ("CRA"), filed a Writ of Mandamus requesting this Court to compel Lyon County Commissioners to be in compliance with the provisions of Nevada's Public Records Act ("NPRA"). On January 4, 2016, Respondents, Lyon County, filed a Response. On April 14, 2016, the Court held a Hearing on the matter and took the issue under submission

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

CRA brings this action to compel the Lyon County Board of County Commissioners to comply with their nondiscretionary duty under the NPRA in response to a request for all records related to Comstock Mining Inc's. ("CMI") application with Lyon County. Petitioner contends Lyon County refuses to produce responsive public records created or received in the course of their public duties located on individual commissioner's private electronic devices.

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CMI filed an application with Lyon County to change land use designations zoning within Silver City from more urban to more rural, to allow mining exploration. The County held a public meeting and heard hours of testimony before granting the application.

CRA contends during the County's review of CMI's application, the commissioners and other members of Lyon County communicated with CMI representatives through their personal devices.

CMI also contends that Lyon County Commissioner, Vita Keller, communicated with CMI using her personal devices because the record is absent with regard to her last minute proposal during the hearing. She has admitted that these conversations took place.

On February 11, 2014, Petitioners submitted to the Lyon County Board of County Commissions and Lyon County staff, a request for all public records pursuant to the NPRA related to CMI's Application for Master Plan Amendment and Zoning change. The request included disclosure of all records of communication regarding CMI's application, to or from the Lyon County Commissioners and CMI representatives, regardless of whether such communication occurred on devices owned by Lyon County or personally by the Lyon County Commissioners.

Lyon County responded to the Petitioner's demand by disclosing all of the records relating to the CMI application. Lyon County did not disclose private cell phone and e-mail records owned by the commissioners. Lyon County explained the commissioners do not retain county issued cell phones. Private cell phone and e-mail records, personally owned by the commissioners, are not maintained by Lyon County.

It should be noted the request made by the Petitioners has language that includes the employees of Lyon County, not just the Commissioners.

QUESTION PRESENTED

Should the Court compel the Lyon County commissioners to disclose their personal e-mail and cell phone records to CRA relating to the CMI application?

The Petitioners argue the NPRA applies to all "public records" regardless of the means of creation. According to the Petitioners, the provisions of NRS § 239.010 requires a broad interpretation that any elected official who uses his/her personal devices to conduct public business must disclose the records created as "public records." The Petitioners cite to Nevada case law stating the Nevada Supreme Court has instructed that all governmental entities public books and public records must remain open to the public, unless "otherwise declared by law to be confidential." NRS 239.010. The purpose of this statute is to promote a transparent governmental entity.

The Petitioners assert the NPRA defines a "governmental entity" as an elected or appointed official of this State. NRS § 239.005. Thus the plain language of the NPRA defines "governmental entity" to include elected officers of a political subsidiary. Id.

The Petitioners assert this is a straight forward interpretation of the statute. They argue Lyon County's interpretation allows public officials to conduct public business on their personal devices, thereby avoiding compliance with the statute. The Petitioners assert that the language of the statute compels Lyon County Commissioners to disclose their personal cell phone and e-mail records. The Petitioners state when a statute is plain and unambiguous, the Court must give the language its ordinary meaning. Nevada State Democratic Party v. Nevada Republican Party, 256 P.3d 1, 4 (2011). The Petitioners then contend the Court should disregard the Respondents claim that the administrators, or the county office, do not possess such records. The Petitioners state the NPRA does not make any distinction between an administrator's office records and the records of elected officials.

The Petitioners cite to other jurisdictions holdings that individual records are public records.

Lyon County makes the following arguments. The Respondents assert private e-mail and cell phone records of elected officials are not "public records" because: (1) they are not "public records" under the NRPA; (2) privacy interests weigh against disclosure; (3) practical limitations preclude the

 Court from declaring all records "public records"; (4) the records are confidential under the deliberative process privilege.

The Respondents stipulate that: NRS chapter 239 requires all books and "public records" of a governmental entity be open for inspections; the provisions of the NPRA are designed to promote governmental accountability; nondisclosure is the exception to the general rule; and elected officials fall under the provisions of the NPRA. However, the Respondents state the issue is whether the specific information requested is "public record."

The Respondents first argue private cell phone and email records are not "public records" under the NPRA because: a) "public records" must be paid for with public money; b) the records sought are not open to public inspection; c) the records are not in control of the Commissioners or County; d) the communications are not official actions, and are not required by law to be public; and e) Nevada law does not support that the requested documents be defined as "public records."

The Respondents argue the NPRA does not define "public record." The Respondents cite to the Nevada Administrative Code which defined "public record" as "a record of a local governmental entity that is created, received or kept in the performance of a duty and paid for with public money." However, this definition was repealed in October of 2014. The Respondents argue at the time of the request it was clear what a "public record" was. Further, private e-mails and cell phones of the Lyon County Commissioners are not paid for with public money. Therefore, they are not "public records."

The Respondents state the Commissioners are entitled to rely on the law as it existed at the time. Ruling in the alterative creates a burden on the government which does not exist.

The Respondents assert "public records" must be left open at all times for inspection by the public. The Respondents argue private cell phone and/or e-mail records are not "public records" because they are not on the books thus not open for inspection. The Respondents further claim that interpreting the statute this way would require all "private" records of a government official to be subject to the NPRA rendering an absurd result.

The Respondents cite to NRS § 239.010(4) which states an officer or employee who has legal custody or control of a record shall not refuse to provide a copy. The Respondents claim the specific information requested is not in the office's control, thus they are not required to produce that information.

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The Respondents argue notes or any communication between the Commissioners with clients or other parties do not fall under the provisions of NAC § 239.101. The statute states an office or department of a local governmental entity is defined as an "office, department, board, commission, committee, agency or any other subdivision of a local government entity where records and made received or kept." NAC § 239.061. "Non-record materials" is any other documentation that does not serve as the record of an official action of a local governmental entity. NAC § 239.051. The Respondents argue private e-mail and cell phone records cannot be records because holding that they are render any notes or communication of any Lyon County employee as a "public record."

In support of this claim, the Respondents cite to a string of Nevada cases, which does not answer the question of private e-mail accounts or private cell phones. They state the Petitioners are asking the Court to do something that has not been done in Nevada before. The Respondents claim such a question should be left to the legislature to decide.

The Respondents make their sixth argument that privacy interest weigh against disclosure. They cite to NRS § 241.015 which states the Nevada Open Meeting Law permits private conversation about county business by less than a majority of its members. They assert this could have a chilling effect on citizens who wish to exercise their constitutional right and talk to their representatives.

Finally, the Respondents claim the records are confidential pursuant to the deliberative process privilege. DR Partners v. Bd. of Cty. Comm'rs of Clark Cty., 116 Nev. 616, 619, 6 P.3d 465, 467 (2000).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND FACT

The Court agrees with the Respondent's arguments regarding this matter. The Court concludes that the Petitioners are asking for records which are not paid for with public money. Specifically they are requesting the Lyon County Commissioner's private cell phone and e-mail records. These record are created by a third party phone and internet provider paid for by the Commissioner's private accounts. Thus, the records in question where not paid for with public money which tends to show that these record are not public.

Further, the Court agrees the records sought are not open to public inspection. Any member of the public could inspect the records at the County Commissioner's office. However, not even the County

Commissioner employees themselves can inspect the Commissioner's personal records. In addition the records sought are not in control of the public agencies.

The Court also agrees the records sought are not official actions of the County. Thus the Petitioners are seeking all communications between the Lyon County Commissioner's and members of the public. Such a request is beyond the provisions of the NPRC.

Finally, The Court does not believe it has authority to order personal information of the Lyon County Commissioners be disclosed to the Petitioners. There are multiple privacy concerns which the Court is concerned with. Such an action must be clearly supported by law which the Court finds it is not. If the legislature intended the provisions of the NPRC to have such reaching consequences, then the Court concludes the Legislature could have easily included language supporting such an assertion.

The Court is aware that this holding may cause public employees to skirt the provisions of the NPRC by conducting business on their private devices. Such a concern is for the Legislature to address.

Therefore, good cause appearing, the Petitioner's Petition is **DENIED**

Dated this 10th day of June, 2016.

ENIOR DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I, Debore Gilmere, am an employee of the Third Judicial District Court, and that on this date pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I mailed at Yerington, Nevada, a true copy of the foregoing document addressed to:

Lyon County District Attorney's Office 31 S. Main St. Yerington, NV 89447

John Marshall, Esq. 570 Marsh Ave. Reno, NV 89509

DATED: This 14th day of June, 2016.

Debbie Gilmore

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COMSTOCK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, GAYLE SHERMAN, JOE MCCARTHY, LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ~ COMPLAINT

Case Number: 14-CV-01304

Type: Writ of Mandamus

Status: Closed

Received Date: 10/24/2014 Status Date: 6/14/2016 Agency: Third Judicial District Court

Involvements

Primary Involvements

MCCARTHY, JOE Plaintiff SHERMAN, GAYLE Plaintiff

LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISIONERS Defendant

COMSTOCK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Plaintiff

Other Involvements

BUSBY, LUKE ANDREW ESQ. Plaintiff's Attorney

RYE, STEPHEN B Defendant's Attorney

Marshall, John Esq. Plaintiff's Attorney, Inactive

Third Judicial District Court (14-CV-01304)

KOSACH, STEVEN Senior Judge Judge

Aberasturi, Leon A. - LAA Dept II - TJDC, Inactive

Charges

1. NRCP 3 ~ COMPLAINT

COMSTOCK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Plaintiff

Disposition: Summary Judgment Dispo Date: 6/14/2016

Lead/Active: True

2. NRCP ~ RELATED PARTY

MCCARTHY, JOE Plaintiff

Disposition: Summary Judgment Dispo Date: 6/14/2016

Notes: Additional Plaintiff

Lead/Active: False

3. NRCP - RELATED PARTY

SHERMAN, GAYLE Plaintiff

Disposition: Stipulated Dismissal Dispo Date: 8/18/2015 Notes: Additional Plaintiff/Gayle Sherman dismissed 8/18/15

Lead/Active: False

4. NRCP 5 - ANSWER

LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISIONERS Defendant

Disposition: Summary Judgment Dispo Date: 6/14/2016

Lead/Active: False

Case Status History

10/24/2014 3:30:00 PM | Open 6/14/2016 10:14:00 AM | Closed

Documents

10/24/2014 Petition - Filed

Notes: Added from Document Scanning session.

10/24/2014 Civil Cover Sheet - Filed

Notes: Added from Document Scanning session.

10/24/2014 Notice - Filed

Notes: Added from Document Scanning session.

10/24/2014 Other - Filed

Notes: Added from Document Scanning session.

11/3/2014 Order - Filed

Notes: Added from Document Scanning session.

11/3/2014 Other - For Court Use Only

Notes: Emailed to AOC on 11/3/14 11/5/2014 Other - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 11/10/2014 Summons - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 11/10/2014 Proof of Service - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 12/8/2014 Answer - Filed Notes: emailed to Judge Kosach on 03/01/15 4/8/2015 Setting Memo - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 7/8/2015 Other - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 8/18/2015 Stipulation and Order - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 10/29/2015 Letter - For Court Use Only 11/18/2015 Stipulation and Order - Filed 11/30/2015 Other - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 11-30-15 11/30/2015 Other - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 11-30-15 11/30/2015 Other - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 11-30-15 1/4/2016 Exhibit - Filed 1/4/2016 Reply - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 1/28/2016 Other - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 1/29/16 2/1/2016 Request for Submission - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 2/3/16. Added from Document Scanning session. 2/1/2016 Reply - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 2/3/16. Added from Document Scanning session. 2/1/2016 Opposition - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 2/3/16. Added from Document Scanning session. 3/29/2016 Setting Memo - Filed 6/14/2016 Order - Filed Notes: Added from Document Scanning session. 6/15/2016 Notice of Entry of Order - Filed Notes: Emailed to Judge Kosach 6/16/16. -AA 7/1/2016 Notice - Filed 7/1/2016 Case Appeal Statement - Filed Peeples, DeAnn Dep. Clerk - DPEEPLES Staff - STAFF Rye, Stephen B. D.A. - X004800 Marshall, John Esq. Cavilia, James R. Esq. KOSACH, STEVEN Senior Judge

Events

11/25/2014 2:30:00 PM | Pre-Trial Hearing | Jury Rm if Crtm not available | Jury Room Notes: Justice Kosach stated Jury Room is fine if no Crtm avail, no Court Clerk needed and doesn't need to be recorded/TI 4/28/2015 3:30:00 PM | Pre-Trial Hearing | CRTM A DEPT IV | Court Room A Peeples, DeAnn Dep. Clerk - DPEEPLES Geurts, Patrick Staff - STAFF Court Room A - CourtRmA Marshall, John Esq. (Plaintiff's Attorney)



RYE, STEPHEN B

KOSACH, STEVEN Senior Judge (Judge)

Notes: Senior Judge Steven Kosach presiding. He did not want JAVS recording. Counsel informed him of status of case. Mr. Marshall has prepared a briefing schedule on stipulated facts; Mr. Rye to review and then it can be submitted for Judge's signature. Mr. Marshall's merits brief due 3rd week of May. Court and counsel discussed dates for hearing on briefs that will be submitted. Matter set for July 1, 2015 @ 10:00 am for 2 hours.

7/1/2015 10:00:00 AM | Motion Hearing | COURT A DEPT IV | Court Room A

Peeples, DeAnn Dep. Clerk - DPEEPLES

Staff - STAFF

Court Room A - CourtRmA

Rye, Stephen B. D.A. - X004800

Marshall, John Esq. (Plaintiff's Attorney)

telephonic

KOSACH, STEVEN Senior Judge (Judge)

Notes: Senior Judge Kosach presiding. Due to conflict, Mr. Marshall will be substituting out of case. He has found new attorney to take case; just has to get signatures for the substitution. Once new attorney is on case, court suggested a conference call be set up between attorneys and court to see how case will proceed.

9/24/2015 11:30:00 AM | Status Hearing | Senior Judge Kosach presiding | Court Room A

Johnson, Orrin Dep D.A.

Geurts, Patrick

Staff - STAFF

Court Room A - CourtRmA

Rye, Stephen B. D.A. - X004800

KOSACH, STEVEN Senior Judge

BUSBY, LUKE ANDREW ESQ.

Notes: Clerk not present and hearing not recorded on JAVS. Per Judge Kosach, counsel agreed to briefing and discovery schedule. Counsel to prepare and submit for signature.

4/14/2016 1:00:00 PM | Motion Hearing | Court Room B

Sceirine, Tanya K - TSCEIRINE

Staff - STAFF

Court Room B - CourtRmB

Rye, Stephen B. D.A. - X004800

Geurts, Patrick Bailiff - X004896

Dragon, Joseph - JOED

BUSBY, LUKE ANDREW ESQ. (Plaintiff's

Attorney)

Notes: Court advised counsel that he did not feel that an evidentiary hearing was needed at this point. Court was familiar with the petition and briefs on file. Court requested counsel to make argument to the court. Court heard statements of Mr. Busby and Mr. Rye. Court took matter under submission

DISTRICT COURT CIVIL COVER SHEET

MON County, Nevada 14-CV-01304 Case No. (Assigned by Clerk's Office) I. Party Information (provide both home and mailing addresses if different) Defendant(s) (name/address/phone): Board of Commissioners Plaintiff(s) (name/address/phone): Comstack Residents Association, Gagle Sherman, Joe McCarthy Attorney (name/address/phone): Attorney (name/address/phone): John L. Marshall 570 Marsh Avenue Reno, NV 89502 (775) 303-4882 II. Nature of Controversy (please select the one most applicable filing type below) Civil Case Filing Types Real Property Torts Landlord/Tenant Other Torts Negligence Unlawful Detainer Product Liability Auto Other Landlord/Tenant Premises Liability Intentional Misconduct Title to Property Other Negligence Employment Tort Judicial Foreclosure Insurance Tort Malpractice Other Title to Property Medical/Dental Other Tort Other Real Property Legal Condemnation/Eminent Domain Accounting Other Real Property Other Malpractice Probate Construction Defect & Contract Judicial Review/Appeal Judicial Review Probate (select case type and estate value) Construction Defect Foreclosure Mediation Case Summary Administration Chapter 40 General Administration Other Construction Defect Petition to Seal Records Special Administration Contract Case Mental Competency Set Aside Nevada State Agency Appeal Uniform Commercial Code Trust/Conservatorship Building and Construction Department of Motor Vehicle Other Probate Worker's Compensation Insurance Carrier Estate Value Other Nevada State Agency Commercial Instrument Over \$200,000 Collection of Accounts Appeal Other Between \$100,000 and \$200,000 Employment Contract Appeal from Lower Court Under \$100,000 or Unknown Other Contract Other Judicial Review/Appeal Under \$2,500 Civil Writ Other Civil Filing Civil Writ Other Civil Filing Writer Habeas Corpus Compromise of Minor's Claim Writ of Prohibition Writ of Mandamus Foreign Judgment Other Civil Writ Writ of Quo Warrant Other Civil Matters Business Court filings should be filed using the Business Court civil coversheet. 10/24/14 Signature of initiating party or representative In John L Marshall See other side for family-related case filings.

1	CASE NO: 14-CV-01304	
2	DEPT: IV (Sr. Judge Kosach)	
3		
4	IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA	
5	IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LYON	
6		
7 8	COMSTOCK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, JOE MCCARTHY,	
9	Petitioners,	
10	vs.	
11		
12	LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS; COMSTOCK	
13	MINING INCORPORATED,	
14	Residents.	
15		
16	I, TANYA SCEIRINE, Clerk of the Third Judicial District Court of the	
17	State of Nevada, in and for the County of Lyon, State of Nevada, hereby certify that the	
18	foregoing Notice of Appeal, Case Appeal Statement, District Court Docket, Order Denying	
19	Petition, Notice of Entry of Order, District Court Minutes, and Civil Cover Sheet are true	
20	copies of documents on file in my office regarding the case referenced above.	
21	WITNESS my hand and the Seal of said Court on this	
22	·	
23	5 th day of July 2016.	
2425	TANYA SCEIRINE, Court Administrator	
26	By Countill pla, Deputy	
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28		
20		