CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-15-002291

BRIAN RODGERS * IN THE DISTRICT COURT

Plaintiff

*

v. * TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

*

THE CITY OF AUSTIN

Defendant * 98TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ORAL DEPOSITION OF SUE EDWARDS
August 28, 2015

BE IT REMEMBERED that the oral deposition of SUE EDWARDS was reported by Lydia L. Edwards, Texas CSR 2567, by machine shorthand on August 28, 2015, at Austin City Hall, located at 301 West 2nd Street, Fourth Floor Conference Room, Austin, Texas, between the times of 9:09 o'clock a.m. and 11:48 o'clock a.m., and taken pursuant to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, unless otherwise agreed to by counsel, and after which time was set forth as follows:

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1	APPEARANCES	۷
2		
3	AleshireLAW, P.C.	
	By: Bill Aleshire	
4	700 Lavaca, Suite 1400	
	Austin, Texas 78701	
5	512.320.9155	
	512.320.9156 Fax	
6	bill@aleshirelaw.com	
7	FOR THE PLAINTIFF	
8		
9	CITY OF AUSTIN LAW DEPARTMENT	
	By: Christopher Coppola	
10	301 West 2nd Street	
	Fourth Floor	
11	Austin, Texas 78701	
	512.974.2161	
12	512.974.1311 Fax	
	christopher.coppola@austintexas.gov	
13		
1 4	FOR THE DEFENDANT	
14 15		
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6 (Before the deposition commenced, 11 1 2 instruments were marked for identification 3 as Del Bosque Exhibits Nos. 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 4C, 5, 6, 4 5 7A, 7B, 8, 9, 10 and 11.) MR. ALESHIRE: Good morning. 6 7 THE WITNESS: Good morning. 8 SUE EDWARDS 9 was called as a witness for the Plaintiff and, after 10 having been duly sworn to tell the truth, testified as 11 follows: 12 EXAMINATION BY MR. ALESHIRE: 13 14 Q. Would you state your full name, please? Α. 15 Sue Edwards. 16 Q. And, Ms. Edwards, my name is Bill Aleshire. 17 am the attorney for the Plaintiff in the lawsuit that is 18 the subject of this deposition by Brian Rodgers against 19 the City of Austin. 20 Have you had your deposition taken before? 21 Α. Never. 22 Q. Have you testified in court before? 23 Α. Once. 24 In this deposition, you -- as you can tell, Q. 25 you're under oath just as if you would be testifying in

a court of law. Now, the reporter is going to take down everything anyone says. So we have a couple of things we need to do to help the court reporter. One is, try not to talk over each other. Let me finish a question before you begin your answer, and I'll try real hard to make sure I have waited to ask the next question until you have finished your comment. Is that okay?

- A. I understand, uh-huh.
- Q. Thank you. Also, we need to be careful not to talk too fast. The court reporter is quite capable of taking normal conversation or more, but let's don't burn her fingers up, okay?
 - A. Okay.
- Q. Your attorney from time to time may have an objection. He'll instruct you if he wants you not to answer the question. He will tell you that, but otherwise his objection -- most objections you will go ahead and answer the question. And I may also be objecting. If you give an answer that I don't feel is responsive to the question, I'm allowed in the deposition to make an objection along those lines, but just be aware that that may occur.
 - A. Okay.
- Q. I'll also ask you if -- to -- before you answer a question if you don't understand my question ask me to

clarify it, please, before you answer it because otherwise if you answer the question we are going to assume you understood what the question was, okay?

- A. Okay.
- Q. And I don't know for sure how long this is going to take. I'm going to do my best to have us out of here at least by noon, but if along the way you feel like you need to take a break, just wave or something. Let us know. I'll be glad to do that as long as there's not a question pending at the time. If you've answered the question, I'm glad to take a break. I'm glad to do that.

Okay. Ms. Edwards, you're here in response to a notice of deposition; is that correct?

And I am handing you what has been marked as Exhibit 5.

- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. Okay. Now, we're here because of a lawsuit that was filed by Brian Rodgers against the City of Austin over records that he sought from the City of Austin, and the lawsuit is brought under the Texas Public Information Act. Are you aware of the allegations that Mr. Rodgers has made in the lawsuit?
 - A. Yes, I am aware.
- Q. Have you read the lawsuit petition, the original petition?

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- A. Yes, I have.
- Q. Did you do anything to prepare for your deposition today other than possibly talk to your lawyer? I don't want to know about that.
 - A. No, I did not.
- Q. Okay. Did you review any documents to prepare for your deposition today?
- A. I reviewed all of the public information requests again that had been submitted.
- Q. Okay. Let me hand you what has been marked as Exhibit 1A, 1B and 1C.
- MR. ALESHIRE: These are the same from yesterday.
 - MR. COPPOLA: Oh, okay.
 - Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) And if you would look at each of those -- if you can identify 1A separately, 1B, 1C. I'm not sure if you've seen all of those, but tell us if you have, if that's part of what you reviewed to prepare for your deposition.
 - A. I have seen all of these documents (indicating), but I have not seen this (indicating).
- MR. ALESHIRE: Okay. And she's referring to 1C that she has not seen.
 - Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Let me give an explanation and ask you a few other questions about this, and it'll

speed up for the rest of them. I think we have a total of seven requests, and the original request, this one (indicating), for example, is information -- this is a request for correspondence that occurred between city officials and the Downtown Austin Alliance. So that was the first request, and then it was clarified as to the time frame that was involved from September the 1st, 2013 through December the 31st, 2014. Then -- and so that's that request.

1C, have you seen information like this displayed before? Do you know what 1C is even if you didn't review it for this deposition? And I'm not asking you if you recognize that particular document, that particular entry. But just generally have you seen that kind of information --

- A. No, I have not.
- Q. -- displayed before? Okay. Let me represent to you that in yesterday's deposition of Mr. Del Bosque he identified this document -- and there's others like it -- as being what is referred to as workflow in the City's PIR -- I think you call it IQ PIR, P-I-R, processing system. And it is, in essence, a log of the activity that occurs when a PIR is -- PIR, P-I-R, I'll refer to, is submitted to the City of Austin. Were you aware that such logs existed?

1 A. I am.

- Q. Okay. But you don't usually see them?
- A. I do not see them.
- Q. Okay. Likewise, I'm going to hand you what has been marked 2A, 2B and 2C. And not to prejudice at all your answer, but this is an example of one where a request, 2B, was submitted to the City of Austin for public information. And then about a month later a request was made to obtain the workflow or PIR processing information which is what 2C is.

But back to our original question, is this also a -- are both 1A and 1B requests that you reviewed to prepare for your deposition?

MR. COPPOLA: You mean 2A and 2B?

MR. ALESHIRE: 2A and 2B. I'm sorry.

- A. I have seen 2A, but I have not seen these two documents (indicating).
- Q. Okay. 2B is the request for records involving the negotiation of the contract with Decker Lake Golf for use of Walter E. Long Park property and a request for proposed versions of the contract. That 2B is a request you have not seen before?
 - A. No.
- Q. But you have seen 2A, which is a copy of the subsequent request asking for log information, workflow

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information, about how this original request was processed by the City, and that one you have seen before?

- A. I am not sure. The ones -- the PIRs that I see, because I only get them through my executive secretary or my executive assistant, are really the final request that is sent from the Law Department.
- Q. And when you say "Law Department," more specifically is that the PIR Team --
- A. Yes.
 - Q. -- within the Law Department?
- 12 A. Uh-huh.
- Q. Okay. But when did you review the open records request to prepare for your deposition?
- 15 A. I get them --
 - Q. No. I meant for this --
- 17 A. Today.
- Q. -- deposition. You indicated you had reviewed them to prepare for your deposition?
- 20 A. Last night.
- 21 Q. Last night. Okay. And do you remember --
 - A. I did not see that one last night.
- 23 **Q. 2A?**
- A. It looks familiar, but I did not see that.
- 25 Q. Okay. And are you pretty sure you have not

seen 2B?

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- A. I have not seen 2B.
- Q. Okay. So were you even aware that Mr. Rodgers had asked the City for copies of correspondence about the terms -- the proposed terms of the contract between Decker Lake Golf and the City?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Until this moment?
 - A. Until this moment.
- Q. I'm going to hand you, then, what was marked as Exhibit 3A, -B and -C, same routine. If you can, tell us if you've seen those documents before. And I understand you've already answered that you probably have not seen 3C, which is the log information, but 3A and 3B.
- A. I've seen 3A and 3B and 3- -- I have seen 3A and 3B. I have not seen 3C.
 - Q. Okay. And the last one, 4A, -B and -C?
- A. I have seen this one except for the last page.
 - Q. Okay. So you have seen 4A, 4B, but not 4C?
- 21 A. Correct.
 - Q. Okay. Ms. Edwards, is it fair to say that if you have not seen the public information request marked as 2B and you haven't seen the one marked as 2A that the records of your office that might be included within the

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scope of those requests have not been searched?

- A. May I see it again, please?
- Q. Certainly.
- A. The records of my office were searched for everything having to deal with the requests that were made.
- Q. Do you know whether your records were searched specifically for the open records request marked as Exhibit 2B?
- A. I can tell you that my office searched for everything that dealt with Richard Suttle or any of the other three names which I was not familiar with, anything that had to do with Walter E. Long or anything that had to do with golf course.
- Q. Well, there is a separate request, No. 4, that asks specifically about correspondence that you may have had or other city officials may have had from Mr. Suttle and the Decker Lake Golf folks before the RFQS for the golf proposal was issued. That's not what 2B is. 2B is a different time frame and only relates, as it says -- it speaks for itself -- to the contract negotiations that were going on after the RFQS was issued and they were selected to negotiate with.
- If you haven't seen this request before, how do you know whether your records were searched to

15 1 see if records responsive to this request were 2 delivered --3 MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) -- were located? 4 Q. 5 MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form. 6 Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Go ahead. 7 MR. ALESHIRE: What's your objection? MR. COPPOLA: Asked and answered. 8 9 (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Okay. Go ahead. Q. 10 Α. Every search that was made covered anything 11 that had wording that would do with this particular 12 request even though I had not seen this request. I can also tell you that I have not been involved in any of 13 14 the negotiations between these individuals --15 Q. Okay. 16 -- with respect to this. 17 So you are personally familiar with what Q. Okay. 18 terms were used to search your records? 19 Α. Yes. 20 Q. Okav. We'll get back to that later, then. 21 Okay. Thank you. 22 Do you know why you would have seen the 23 requests involved in Exhibits 1, 3 and 4 but not 2? 2.4 No, I don't. Α. 25 Ms. Edwards, I want to establish what your job Q.

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is and try to get the lay of the land as to what the scope of your work is for the City of Austin. So I have a few questions along those lines. What is your job title?

- A. Assistant City Manager.
- Q. And how long have you held that position?
- A. Since June of 2008, I believe.
- Q. And is that the same job title you had all during that period of time?
- 10 A. Yes.
 - Q. And you worked for the City prior to June of 2008 when you became an ACM?
 - A. I have.
 - Q. And how long have you been with the City?
- 15 A. This time I have been with the City for 16 21 years.
- Q. And you had had a break?
- A. Yes. I was with the City for 11 years. I had a break for 11 years, and then I came back to the City in March of 1994. So from March of 1994 until now is a little over 21 years.
 - Q. You've got the pleasure of seeing the BCCP developed.
 - Do you have any outside employment or business other than your position with the City?

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- 1 Α. No, I don't. 2 Q. Do you serve on the board of any organizations?
 - (Nods affirmatively.)

Any organizations?

- I am a board member of the Waller Creek Α. Conservancy, and I am the City's representative there. I am on the advisory board of the Downtown Austin Alliance.
- Q. And what is the advisory board of the DAA, I'll call it, as opposed to the board?
- Periodically the board will call in the Α. advisory board for technical questions or technical reasons.
- Q. Which city departments report to you? I assume that there are city departments that report to you?
- Α. Uh-huh. I have the Airport, Development Services, Planning and Zoning, Watershed Protection, Economic Development, the Office of Sustainability, and Kerry's office. What is Kerry's office called? I've gone blank.
- 21 THE WITNESS: Is it -- you can't help me.
- I have one other office which is --22
- 23 MR. COPPOLA: Can we go off the record for
- 24 a moment?
- 25 MR. ALESHIRE: Sure.

Q.

18 (OFF THE RECORD) 1 2 THE WITNESS: The Innovation Office. 3 0. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) The Innovation Department? 4 It's an office, not a department. Α. 5 Innovation Office. Okay. Which one of those Q. 6 departments' jurisdiction would have caused you to be 7 involved at all in the proposal for use of the Walter E. 8 Long parkland for the Decker Lake Golf proposal? 9 It could have been Watershed Protection. It Α. 10 could have been Economic Development. It could have 11 been Planning and Zoning. It could have been 12 Development Services Department. 13 Okay. But the Parks Department is not one of Q. 14 your departments, right? 15 Α. No, it's not. 16 Ο. Who is Parks under? 17 Bert Lumbreras. Α. 18 Q. And you are familiar, you indicated, with the 19 request that's in Exhibit 3 for the potential purchase 20 by the City of parkland -- 75 acres as I understood it, 21 of potential parkland on Bull Creek --22 Α. Yes. 23 Q. -- is that correct? 2.4 Uh-huh. Α.

Okay. And which of these departments would

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have put you in a role, if you were in a role, of evaluating whether the City should purchase that property, I believe, from TxDOT?

- A. Let me go back. May I amend?
- Q. Sure.
 - A. I left out a department.
- Q. Sure.
 - A. The Office of Real Estate.
 - Q. Now I understand. Thank you. Is that why?
- A. It was a number of them. It was the Office of Real Estate. It was also Watershed, and it was also what was then the Planning and Development Review Department. That department is now two departments.
- One of them is Development Services Department. The other one is Planning and Zoning Department.
 - Q. Okay. You mentioned a little earlier that you have an executive assistant and an executive secretary, I believe?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. What are their names? Tell me which is which.
 - A. The -- my executive assistant is Marie Sandoval, and my executive secretary is Jessica Bluebird.
 - Q. Do you have other staff that report directly within your office that are not part of another city

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department that report to you? Do you have staff within your own ACM office in addition to these two?

- A. No.
- Q. Okay. So you have, in essence, roughly eight department heads that report to you?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Has your job performance been evaluated since January 1st of this year?
 - A. No.
- Q. Have you received any criticism of your work from city administrators this year?
- 12 A. No.
 - Q. Have you received any praise of your work from city administrators this year?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Can you tell me the subject area of that praise, the general nature of it?
 - A. The City Manager on a periodic basis will just email you, "Hey, that was a great job done," not necessarily for anything in particular.
 - Q. Okay. Thank you. Now, let me turn to the way the City handles public information requests. To your knowledge, is there a single person at the City whose job it is to make sure the City complies with the TPIA?
 - A. Well, I hope it's all of us.

- Q. Okay. All employees?
- A. I think all employees are responsible for responding. We do have a process.
- Q. Are you able to identify to start with any single person whose job it is to either audit or check up on compliance by the City with the Public Information Act?
- A. The City Manager always periodically checks in to make sure that we're complying, but I'm not really, Bill -- Mr. Aleshire, I'm not really involved in the PIR process. I let both Marie Sandoval and Jessica. Those are their responsibilities to deal with any of the PIRs that I receive. If I receive them personally, I send them to them to process through the formal process.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. And if they receive them, they notify me, and they send them through the formal process. So the background of what goes on is not one of the things that I do.
- Q. Okay. In the last -- let's say since January of -- January 1st of 2013, have you had occasion personally to search your records for potential responsive documents to a public information request?
- A. I don't do that. Jessica or Marie do that for me.

- Q. Okay. So you have not done that where you personally searched for the records?
 - A. No.
- Q. Okay. How are you familiar with the search terms or methodology they use -- that Ms. Sandoval and Ms. Bluebird use to search your records in response to PIR?
- A. They always -- I tell them to use the broadest terms that they can find, narrow it down to the very specific. And so they use -- they tell me the words that they use when they're searching, and they ask me, "Sue, can you think of any other way we might search this?" And when they ask me that, we sit down and talk about it to see if we can think of any other way that we can possibly search.
- Q. Did that occur on any of the four open records requests -- that conversation with them about search terms occur on any of the four PIRs that we've got marked as 1 through 4?
- A. Yes. Jessica is -- has been with me for less than a year, and so she wants to be really sure that she's doing a good job. So she'll say, "Sue, I've searched this, this, this and this. Here's the words I've used. Is there some other way I can search?"
 - Q. In order to evaluate whether the search is

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proper and complete, don't you need to see each of the requests?

- A. I do. I do see each one of the requests.
- Q. Except for No. 2?
 - A. I did not see that one.
- Q. Okay.
- A. Was it sent to me?
- Q. I don't know.
 - A. Wouldn't it be on the distribution list?
 - Q. We'll have to keep the questions going this way (indicating) and the answers coming that way (indicating).
 - A. Sorry.
 - Q. In the time that you've been ACM, has anyone ever from outside your office checked to see if you're complying with records retention laws?
- 17 A. Yes.
 - Q. Who and roughly when?
 - A. On a periodic basis, the City Clerk's Office and the City Manager's Office communicate together about records retention. We've had records retention training. Marie has had records retention training. We just not too long ago did a final purge of all of the records. We had boxes all over our office because City Clerk was looking through things and making sure that we

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- had retained the appropriate records.
- Q. Approximately when was that activity going on?
 - A. I'd say about three, four months ago.
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. I'm not real sure, but about that time -- around that time.
 - Q. And these are paper records?
 - A. All kinds of records.
 - Q. Okay. Well, concerning electronic records -and let's talk -- let's start with emails. How does
 the -- how has the City clerk checked your emails -let's talk about the ones directed to you or from you -in regards to records retention?
 - A. The City Clerk does not check my emails. What the City Clerk does is work with all of the SPOCs, as we call them, to --
 - Q. S-P-O-C-s?
 - A. S-P-O-C-s. -- to see what records have been maintained over a period of time, and that's as far as I know all the details. That is again not my responsibility. It is working with Marie and with Jessica to do that.
 - Q. You've had training in records retention laws?
- 24 A. Yes.
 - Q. And so you're familiar that you can legally

delete or get rid of emails, for example, depending on the nature of the email -- the subject matter of the email and the period of time?

A. Yes.

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form; asks for a legal conclusion.

- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Based on your understanding of your training, are you allowed based on the subject matter of emails and the length of time they've been around been able to delete or otherwise discard emails that otherwise would be in your Inbox or Sent box or --
 - A. Yes.

MR. COPPOLA: Hey, Bill, I'm not trying to interrupt your flow. But can we take a break anytime soon? I've been drinking too much coffee.

MR. ALESHIRE: Absolutely. Let's just do that right now.

MR. COPPOLA: Okay.

MR. ALESHIRE: Let's go off the record.

(BRIEF RECESS)

Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Ms. Edwards, I want to be fair to you. You had wondered whether or not the public information request marked as 2A and 2B had been sent to your office. I wanted to give you an opportunity to look at 2C -- the workflow is what the PIR team calls

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it -- and scan that to see if your office was, in fact, sent that request.

- A. No.
- Q. Right. And would you go back to 2B? And that's the original request, and look at the part of the request that's numbered No. 1. Would you mind reading that out loud so that we can discuss it?
- A. "A copy of any correspondence (email or paper) between any official, employee, or attorney of the City of Austin and any officer, employee, or attorney of Decker Lake Golf LLC regarding proposed terms of a contract between the City of Austin and Decker Lake Golf LLC after Decker Lake Golf was selected as the party and with whom to negotiate a contract."
- Q. Okay. Now, can you see any reason why the scope of that part of the request might not include your office?
 - A. I was not involved in any of the negotiations.
- Q. Well -- but it didn't ask for just negotiations. It asked for any correspondence about the contract terms, right?
- A. I had no correspondence. I was not included in any of the discussions for terms or any correspondence.
- Q. But how would the public information team -- how would the public information manager know that?

- A. I can't answer that.
- Q. Right. So is there -- in your opinion, should your office have been asked whether or not you had any correspondence that was within the scope of that part of the request?

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

- A. I can't answer that. I don't know. I was not involved.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Well -- but isn't the point of referring a public information request to an office to see whether or not responsive records are there?
- A. Mister --

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Go ahead.
- A. Mr. Aleshire, I was never involved in that part of any of the negotiations. I can only assume that people knew that.
 - Q. Knew that or assumed that?
 - A. I don't know. I can't answer that.
- Q. Right. But you -- well, let's -- we've established according to the log your office never received that request. Is it -- and according to what I see in the log -- and you're welcome to check it as well -- there doesn't appear to be any response from your office obviously saying we have or we don't have

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records, right?

- A. (Nods affirmatively.)
- Q. Do you have any way of knowing whether other ACMs or the City Manager would have had any correspondence about the contract terms of that contract?
 - A. I do not, no.
- Q. Okay. That contract had aspects of it that were pretty controversial, did it not?
- A. I think it probably depended on who you were talking to.
- Q. But there are other people in the community, perhaps even -- you may be aware even my client, Brian Rodgers, who were opposed to that contract?
- A. I was not aware that your client was opposed.
- Q. Okay. Were you aware that a ballot proposition was submitted to the voters of Austin in 2001 to approve a lease of parkland at Walter E. Long Park in part for a golf course?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Even in the course of discussion about --
 - A. Could you back up and answer that --
- Q. Yes.
 - A. -- I mean, ask that question one more time?
- Q. Okay. Were you aware that in 2001 there was a

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ballot proposition submitted to the voters of Austin to see if they would approve a lease of a certain number of acres of Walter E. Long Park to be used in part for a meeting center and golf course?

- A. No. At the time, I was not. The only time I became aware of that was when Sara talked about it -- Sara Hensley, the director of Parks and Recreation, mentioned it.
 - Q. During what period of time?
 - A. During this period of time.
 - Q. 2013-2014?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. But you were with the City in 2001, right?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And are you -- did you become familiar with why a lease of that parkland was submitted to the voters?
- 18 A. No.
 - Q. Are you familiar with a city charter requirement that for alienation of parkland it must be approved by the voters?
 - A. Under certain circumstances, yes.
- Q. Okay. But you don't know if that's why -- the charter provision is why that lease of the Walter E.
- 25 Long parkland was submitted to the voters?

1 A. No.

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- Q. Do you know whether that ballot proposition was approved?
 - A. No.
- Q. You're not aware that the voters turned that lease proposition down?
 - A. No.
- Q. Okay. It's apparent from the records I've seen that you became involved in 2013 in discussing with the Decker Lake Golf representatives before the RFQS was issued the idea of using some of that parkland at Walter E. Long for golf courses. Is that fair to say?
- A. I had a meeting -- I was invited to a meeting by the City Manager where there were three people whom I did not know at the time and Richard Suttle, and they brought forth an idea to put a PGA golf course on that particular piece of property. That was all I knew.
 - Q. Okay. And was that with the City Manager?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. City Manager, you and those three individuals from Decker Golf and Richard Suttle?
 - A. I think there were two individuals --
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. -- and Richard Suttle. One was a person who owned the property that was adjacent to it, and one was

an individual who was supposed to be an expert in golf.

- Q. Would it -- I'm going to refer to our

 Plaintiff's interrogatory to the City of Austin, No. 6,

 that according to these records, you answered and swore

 to the response. It asks for correspondence between you

 and Warren Hayes, Gary Bellomy and Joe Ogilvie. Does

 that help refresh your recollection as to whether any of

 those three were involved in this meeting you're

 referring to?
- A. Warren Hayes. I don't know the other person.

 And, again, I am not very good at names and particularly when I don't know somebody that I'm not involved with.

 So --
- Q. Do you recall about when this meeting with the City Manager and you and the Decker Golf people occurred?
- A. No. It was more than -- probably a year ago, but I could -- I don't know.
- Q. But it was before the RFQS was put out? It was in the formative stages --
 - A. It was --
 - Q. -- of the idea?
- A. I can't -- I don't know. I just know that this was the first time that the City Manager or I had heard of the idea --

Q. Okay.

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- A. -- at that meeting.
- Q. And since you -- the record shows that you actually reviewed the RFQS before it was put out and made a few comments about changes to it?
 - A. Uh-huh.
- Q. Then this meeting must have occurred before you did that, right?
 - A. Oh, absolutely.
- Q. Okay.
- A. This was an initial meeting it appeared to me.
 - Q. Okay. Just to wrap this up on what these logs are showing about referrals of PIRs to you or your office, let me show you 1C just to remind you that the information request involved in 1 had to do with correspondence and city officials and the DAA. And if you'll notice, at the top of 1C it does show that CM and ACM were included on the last page, 1C.
- 19 A. (Nods affirmatively.)
 - Q. Right. So that request went to your office?
- 21 A. Uh-huh.
 - Q. And, in fact, you had responsive records to that. Let me -- in this case, if you'll look at the original request which is 1B, the request was structured in a way where the search would be pretty obvious,

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right? In fact, doesn't the request say I want -- we want all the emails to or from these specific URLs or email addresses listed as a, b, c and d?

- A. Let me read this, please --
- Q. Sure.
 - A. -- for a minute.
 - Q. Sure.
- A. Okay.
 - Q. So to the best of your knowledge, were those terms that are shown on 1B the terms that your staff used to search your records, given the period of time, I think, that was clarified in --
 - A. To the best of my knowledge, yes.
 - Q. Okay. Do you have any specific recollection of discussing this with -- the search terms with your staff on this request?
- 17 A. I don't.
 - Q. Okay. Real Estate Office is one of your departments -- or one of the departments that reports to you. If they get a PIR, do you get involved in it?
- A. Anytime -- well, I would say that -- I'm not sure I can answer that.
 - Q. In this case, this is Request No. 3 that asks for records about the Bull Creek property?
 - A. Uh-huh.

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- Q. And it was referred, it says here, ORES, which we understand --
 - A. Office of Real Estate.
- Q. -- to be the Real Estate Office. Do you know -- and this does not indicate -- well, look at 3C and tell me whether -- what that workflow indicates were the offices to which the PIR was referred. I think at the top I noted it does show ORES. Do you see any other entry on there where it refers to an office to which the PIR was referred? I'm not asking about responses that came back but where it was referred to other than ORES?
- A. Myself.
- Q. Which entry?
- A. ACM-Goode.
 - Q. Well, I'm asking about --
- 16 A. About me?
 - Q. No. Let me make sure my question is clear to you. 3C, if you look at the second line, it shows that "ORES has been added to this PIR"?
 - A. Uh-huh.
 - Q. And then the third line says, "Please advise if other departments should be added to this PIR," correct?
 - A. Uh-huh.
 - Q. Okay. And I forgot to mention earlier that for our court reporter she cannot distinguish --

1 A. Yes.

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- Q. -- uh-huh from huh-uh.
- A. Uh-huh, yes.
 - Q. Okay. And so we need a yes or no if possible.

Okay. Do you see where else it shows that any other departments other than ORES were added to the PIR? I am not asking you about entries that may indicate that responsive documents were provided. I'm asking you if you see anything on this log that indicates that the PIR was sent to any other offices other than Real Estate.

- A. If I'm understanding your question right, where it says, "ACM Arellano has no responsive information," that's to a different ACM. Am I answering -- am I responding to what you're asking?
- Q. No. My question is confined to whether -- what entries are on this log showing where the PIR was sent, and I only see -- and I'm not trying to be tricky at all. The only entry I see on here was that the PIR was sent to the Real Estate Office. That's Line No. 2. I don't see anywhere else on here where it shows that the PIR was referred to the Law Department or to the ACMs or the CM.
- A. Well, they would have had to have been sent if it says that Arellano has no responsive information.

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- 1 Mr. Goode has no responsive information, Jason Garza.
- 2 | Lumbreras' office has no responsive information.
- Anytime that that occurs, it means that it's been sent to that particular office because otherwise we cannot say we have no responsive information.
 - Q. Well, that may be a bit --
 - A. I don't know -- let me just clarify. Because I have never seen this before, I don't know what some of this means, but I can tell you that when something says they have no responsive information they have been queried and there has been a search done. That's all I can answer for you.
 - Q. Right. But the question -- where I'm headed with this question is, obviously on some occasions on some of these PIRs it shows that your office or other ACMs or the CM were sent the PIR to see whether you have records. Some show that it wasn't sent to your office, or at least according to the log.
 - Now, we have a couple of possibilities, and this is -- we go back to the original question that started this series. I asked you if -- when the Real Estate Office receives a PIR does your office get involved.
 - A. I don't always --
 - Q. That's where it started.

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- A. I don't always get involved. If something goes directly to an office and it is not something that I am involved with, I can't tell you whether or not I see them all or not. I would say -- I'm not sure where you're coming from. I -- if I could better understand your question or what you're looking for, maybe I could respond better.
- Q. With the -- as you look at this log, would you agree that there's a couple of logical possibilities that could explain how there is no indication that any of the ACMs or the CM was sent this PIR, but yet there are responses from the ACM and CM? And one of the possibilities would be they just failed to log it. They sent the PIR to the City Manager and the ACMs and just didn't log it on the workflow. That's a possibility, is it not, logical possibility?
- A. I can't answer that because I -- as I said before, I've really never seen this, and I don't know whether or not there is a process that says it's sent to specifically. I do know, though, if -- again, if it says that there was no responsive information from an ACM's office, they had to be asked because you have Rose Marie Martinez, and it says "CM Ott's documentation attached," and it doesn't indicate that it was sent to his office. So all I can say is, when there's a

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response like that, that office would have seen that PIR.

Q. Let's back up a bit, then. Would you expect in the public information process of the City of Austin that some kind of record might be kept as to what happened to a PIR when it was received by the City as to which offices were even consulted about the PIR?

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Would you expect there to be some kind of record made of that?

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

A. Certainly I would think that there would be.

MR. ALESHIRE: All right.

- A. I know that we are very careful about that, and we are always very particular about making sure that we know who it has been sent to.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) And wouldn't you agree that that's kind of important to make sure that the response is complete, because if an office actually has records that are responsive to a PIR but they're not even asked to check to see about those responsive records, odds are the requester is not going to get all the records they're entitled to get --

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) -- right?

- A. Not necessarily. Use the one that I gave you as an example. I knew what you were looking for in your other requests, and we wanted to make sure that everything we have you got. It's really important to us. And so if you recall my answers and my response to the search, we searched for everything that we could think of that was applicable to the subject that you were talking about, not just the responses from Richard Suttle back and forth but also Decker Lake because you were looking for that kind of information.
- Q. The Request No. 2 that you indicated you had not seen and that according to the log does not show that your department received that PIR --
 - A. That is correct.
- Q. -- occurred on -- was submitted on March the 16th. The request that you're referring to about Mr. Suttle and correspondence you may have had with the Decker Lake folks wasn't submitted until March 19th, a few days later?
 - A. Uh-huh.
- Q. I guess what I'm asking is -- I'm surprised by your answer that you think that a requester might end up getting all the records they've asked for from the City to which they'd be entitled even if a department that holds records that are responsive to those requests are

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not asked to search for those records. Is that what you mean to answer?

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

A. My point is this: When we get a PIR and we understand what someone is looking for, the last thing we want to do is keep that. We want to give you everything we can. And so the search -- I can speak for my office. The search is really broad because we have some indication of what you're looking for. There's not anything that I want to keep from anyone because I think it's important that we are very truthful and that we do the best job we can.

Now, sometimes probably those things don't -- don't -- we don't catch everything. But I would say that I know from the City Manager's Office, because we've talked about it many times, that the broadest search we can make is the very best.

MR. ALESHIRE: I'm going to object to that answer as nonresponsive.

THE WITNESS: Counsel --

Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) The -- and my question to you would be, what good would the internal processes of your office doing a thorough search matter if your office is not informed that the PIR has even been received by the City?

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- A. I think we're not communicating. We have PIRs that were previous to the March one that you're indicating, the third one that you showed me, that I did not receive; is that correct?
- Q. Apparently you did not receive No. 2. And No. 3 doesn't indicate that you received it, but there was an entry showing it was sent to your office. But I agree with you logically you must have seen it somehow.
 - A. I did --
- Q. And I'm trying to understand the process by which that occurred because you responded to it.
- A. I did not see it. I did ask Jessica to do a very broad search, but I did not see it.
- Q. I'm sorry. I'm talking about No. 3 which is the Bull Creek one. Your office --
- A. Oh.
 - Q. Your office --
 - A. Yes, I saw the Bull Creek one.
- Q. All right. You saw the Bull Creek one. And so that this is clear and we can end this chapter of this deposition, the entries on 3C do not show that it was ever sent to your office, the CM or the other ACMs as a log entry. It only shows it was sent to the Real Estate Office.
 - And the reason I'm asking this question --

this series of questions is to see if there's something in the process where the Real Estate Office might have been referred the PIR and whether the Real Estate Office contacted the City Manager or the ACMs.

- A. Yes.
- Q. That's a logical possibility?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. And so you -- so even if the PIR Team that manages and creates this log -- they call it a workflow for a PIR -- might not have entered an entry showing that it was referred to your office, it might make it to your office through a department like the Real Estate Office?
 - A. That's correct. It could.
- 15 Q. Okay.
 - A. Now are we on the same page?
 - Q. Well, while we're on the subject, we'll finish up, then, with No. 4. Please look at 4C which is the workflow for the open records request regarding correspondence with the Decker Lake folks prior to the issuance of the RFQS. And if you'll look at 4C, the last page there, and review that, would you agree that on the first line it indicates that this was forwarded to Law, PARD, which is P-A-R-D which is Parks, CMO, which is City Manager's Office, right?

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A. Uh-huh.

MR. COPPOLA: You need to --

THE WITNESS: Yes.

- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) And CTM-MAC, what is that, CTM-MAC? Actually I think I know what that is. I believe that's the computer people that do the search for the City Council emails.
- A. Okay.
- Q. If you'll look down the second entry, it indicates that they added EDD. Who is EDD; do you know? Is that -- I'm guessing. Is that Economic Development Division?
- A. I'm --
- Q. Second -- third entry.
- A. Oh, EDD? Yes.
- Q. Okay. And then Law, AE, being Austin Energy,
 and AWU, Austin Water Utility, were added, right, on the
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. -- March? Now, notice the date. The request
 was dated March the 19th. It was entered into the
 system, according to this, March the 22nd. These other
 entities were added as late as March the 30th.
 - I want to show you what has been marked as Exhibit 8, and I'm referring to the email that is at the

top of that page. Take just a moment to read that.

- A. (Witness did as requested.)
- Q. Have you read that top email?

MR. COPPOLA: Just a minute.

- A. Okay.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) First of all, have you ever seen the email that was dated April the 8th, 2015 from me to Elaine Nicholson that's at the top of Exhibit 8?

 Do you recall ever seeing that before?
 - A. I don't recall.
- Q. Okay. Were you aware in this -- roughly this time frame of April that Mr. Rodgers was threatening to file a lawsuit to obtain the records that had been requested in March and had not yet been received?
- A. No.
 - Q. Okay. Let's look, then -- I'm going to try to keep these in order, and we can get -- anytime you need to see another exhibit, please feel free to do it.

If you go back to 4C now, you notice that I sent this email to the City on April the 8th complaining about whether or not, in fact, all the responsive emails had been provided to Mr. Rodgers for Request No. 4, and notice the second to last entry in item -- Exhibit 4C. Do you see what that says on April the 28th?

1 A. Uh-huh.

- Q. What does it say?
- A. It says "Added ACM-Edwards."
- Q. In light of the top entry indicating where it was sent, does -- is it your understanding that a PIR that is sent only to the CMO, which would be the City Manager's Office, would not necessarily come to your office?
 - A. Most of the time they do.
- Q. Okay. But you were not according to this log -- again, I don't know if it's correct or not, but it's what we've been given. It indicates that this request that was made on March the 16th was finally referred to your office to check for records on April the 28th.

In light of your comments, even though I objected to them earlier about the policies and the desires of the City to be responsive under the TPIA, do you have any particular reaction to the time period that occurred between the time the record was requested and the time that your office was even asked to search to see if you had responsive records?

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

A. I don't issue those. So I don't know how they come. I do know that PIRs are sent to whom people think

are the most responsive individuals. Sometimes then after that somebody will say have you thought about this person or have you thought about that person.

I was not directly involved in the Decker Lake negotiations, just initially in the meetings that I had told you -- in the meeting I had told you about. So it could be that people don't know everybody that's involved, but as they talk to other individuals within a particular office or the City that they are then sent to somebody else.

- Q. Well, my question was, in your judgment as an important city official, if you think taking from March the 16th to April the 28th to even ask a department if it got records is an acceptable time frame concerning the goals the City of Austin has to comply with the TPIA?
 - MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Is that an acceptable time

 frame --
 - A. I don't know.
- 21 Q. -- in your opinion?
 - A. I don't know.
 - Q. You don't know. Notice also on 4C, if you will, that the last entry is shown as May the 6th as indicating that your office had provided some responsive

information on May the 6th, which was just a week or so after your office had received the request on April the 28th. I don't see on 4C any indication other than -- I don't see an entry on here where it shows that the information was provided to the requester. Do you?

- A. I'm not sure.
- Q. I don't see an entry on 4C where it shows that the information was provided to the requester. I'm not asserting it wasn't. I'm just telling you I don't see an entry here that indicates when the information that was requested on March the 16th was provided to Mr. Rodgers. Do you?
- A. No. But that doesn't necessarily mean that this is the only thing that we use nor do we put everything in writing either when we have a process that we've been using for a long period of time.
- Q. So if Mr. Del Bosque testified yesterday that this is the process by which you log the activity on a PIR, he would be wrong about that?
 - A. I really --

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

A. I really do not have any knowledge about the background of this. My knowledge really deals with once the PIR is received by Jessica or by Marie she gives it to me, and then we begin the search.

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MR. ALESHIRE: Right.

- A. I know that everybody tries to do the very best that they possibly can.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Once you have provided information to be turned over to the requester, do you inquire as to whether or not that actually got done and, if so, when?
 - A. Yes. Of course, I do.
- Q. Okay. Were you aware that the information that was requested on March the 16th regarding request No. 4 was not provided to the requester until May the 18th?
- A. I'm sorry. Say that again, please. Which request?
- Q. Were you aware that the information that was requested in this Request No. 4 about the pre-RFQS discussions with Decker Lake Golf was not provided to the requester until May the 18th, 2015?
- 18 A. No.
 - Q. Okay. In your opinion, is over a 60-day period of time from when a request is received by the City till the time that the responsive records are provided to the requester an acceptable time frame from your standpoint as the city official?
 - A. It depends on the circumstance.
 - Q. Okay. And considering the nature of this

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request, then, do you think that is an acceptable period of time to provide responsive records?

- A. Again, it depends on the circumstance. It depends on how many people have records and how many records those are and how many sheets of paper that individuals have to review.
- Q. Okay. I'm going to hand you what has been marked as Exhibit 9, and for the purpose of my questions, I'm going to stipulate to you that those are the records that were provided to Mr. Rodgers in response to the Request No. 4.

Now, first of all, in light of your --

MR. COPPOLA: Are you saying that's the sum total of the records he received in response to Request No. 4 or just part of the records?

MR. ALESHIRE: Yes. This is what Mr. Rodgers was provided in response to the Request No. 4 on an email dated May the 18th, 2015.

MR. COPPOLA: But you're not suggesting he hasn't received other records since then responsive --

MR. ALESHIRE: No. This question is directed as to what was received before the lawsuit was filed, and I'll stipulate to that.

MR. COPPOLA: Okay.

MR. ALESHIRE: And it only relates to 4B.

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It only relates to 4B, that request.

- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) I want to give you an opportunity to review Exhibit 9, but I also want you to, if you will, take me -- to the extent that you recognize what these documents are, walk me through what each one is, what's your understanding of each one of those pages.
 - MR. COPPOLA: Take a look at them first.

THE WITNESS: (Witness did as requested.)

- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Ms. Edwards, I realize that you -- these are basically calendar entries and meeting requests, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And I realize that you may or may not have been involved in every one of these meetings, but I'd like to figure out based on this record and to the extent that it refreshes your recollection as well which meetings you attended.
- The first page indicates that there was a meeting on March the 26th, correct?
 - A. Uh-huh.
 - MR. COPPOLA: Would you say yes?
- THE WITNESS: Yes, yes.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) And the second page is the meeting request, is it not?

A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. And it shows the organizer being Sara
 Hensley --
 - A. Uh-huh.
 - Q. -- right?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. And it indicates who is supposed to attend the meeting?
- 9 A. Yes.
 - Q. That being Sara Hensley, Jesse Vargas, Richard Suttle, and Warren Hayes?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. But you're not listed there. Do you recall if you attended that meeting?
 - A. I don't recall, but if I was not listed, I would not have been there.
 - Q. Okay. Is this -- so far is this helping jog your memory about when the meeting was that you referenced the City Manager asked you to be involved in the meeting with a couple of the Decker Lake folks and Mr. Suttle?
 - A. There were two meetings. One of them was early. So it had to be earlier than March the 26th, the first meeting with the City Manager.
 - Q. Okay. Do you know if it occurred before

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January 1st of 2015?

- A. I do not.
- Q. Do you recall the meeting, actually meeting with them and the City Manager?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Do you recall at all by chance what the weather was like? Was it in the wintertime? Was it cold? Was it warm?
- A. I don't. I get -- sometimes I go to eight meetings a day.
- Q. Okay.
- 12 A. No, I don't. I'm sorry.
 - Q. Okay. I was trying to help to see if you could recall. But you're pretty sure it would have occurred before March the 26th?
 - A. I am almost sure, simply because that was an introductory meeting where the discussion was, "City Manager, what do you think about this idea?"
 - Q. For the PGA golf?
 - A. Yes, uh-huh.
 - Q. Okay. The next entry that we received was for July the 3rd. And the calendar indicates that you were one of the attendees, and, in fact, the meeting request on the next page indicates that you were the organizer of that meeting. Is that correct?

- 1 Α. That's what it shows, yes. 2 Q. Okay. And it shows that the -- at least the 3 required attendees were Greg Canally, C-a-n-a-l-l-y --4 Canally. Α. 5 Canally. Who is that? Q. 6 Α. Greg is with the Finance Department. 7 Okay. And Sara Hensley and Rodney Gonzales who Q. 8 is also with PARD; is that right? 9 Α. No. Rodney Gonzales is Economic Development. 10 Economic Development. Okay. And "W. Hayes" Ο. 11 being Warren Hayes? 12 Α. I guess. 13 Okay. It's listed at the top as Warren Hayes. Q. 14 Now, I notice down on that meeting request that Dana 15 Eskew said the meeting was confirmed with Warren Hayes. 16 Who is Dana Eskew, E-s-k-e-w?
- 19 Q. For whom?
- 20 A. -- me.

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- 21 **Q.** For you?
- 22 A. Uh-huh.
 - Q. Okay. So the City Manager -- do you recall that meeting in July?
 - A. Not really. I think I barely recall the City

She was the executive secretary at the time

Manager had just asked me to make sure that everything got started in terms of meeting people.

- Q. Okay. On this topic of --
- A. On the topic.
- Q. Okay. And were these -- did you have any direct communication with Richard Suttle or -- with Richard Suttle about -- in advance of this meeting?
 - A. No.

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

- A. No, I did not. What the City Manager -because I was the one that was in the original meeting,
 the City Manager just asked me to -- when we discovered
 that it was really a PARD piece of property and that it
 was one where Sara needed to take charge, I was asked,
 because I was in that meeting, to pull a meeting
 together to explain what the discussion had been and to
 convene these people in order to see whether they wanted
 to move forward with this sort of a project. And I was
 really a coordinator.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Okay. And then the next entry is in October, October 25th of 2013. It shows the calendar entry, and if I'm reading this calendar entry correctly, there's a meeting with Richard Suttle at 10:00 o'clock on the calendar entry and you. This is on the -- is that right?

A. Uh-huh.

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- Q. And then there's another meeting with Sara Hensley at 11:30; is that correct?
 - A. Uh-huh.
 - Q. Correct?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. Now, this indicates that you organized a meeting with Richard Suttle and Warren Hayes along with Bert Lumbreras, Sara Hensley, Jesse Vargas, correct --
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. -- the meeting request?
- 12 A. Uh-huh.
 - Q. Do you recall anything about that meeting?
 - A. This was again -- Bert Lumbreras was not in the meeting that we originally had, and if I recall at the time, the City Manager asked me to check in to see how they were all -- were they moving forward.
 - Q. Do you recall any of the discussions that occurred in the meetings you attended in July and October with the Decker Lake folks?
 - A. Other than organizational kinds of things, you know, "How are you doing," "Are you moving along," "Have you decided what you want to do," I was at that point just -- because I had been in the original meeting and Bert had not been in the original meeting, that was

really my responsibility.

- Q. What was your understanding at this time as to what they were going to propose? You've indicated that they were proposing to use some parkland, right?
- A. I think, if I recall correctly, they were beginning to talk about whether or not it was feasible to use parkland and whether -- if it were feasible whether or not to use a license agreement or something else.
- **Q.** And why --
 - A. And that was the discussion.
 - Q. I'm sorry. And why would there be discussion about using a license agreement as opposed to a lease?
 - A. I understand Parks uses either one.
 - Q. But did you -- do you recall from your conversations with them why they would use a license as opposed to a lease of the parkland?
- 18 | A. No, I don't.
 - Q. Did they divulge to you any particular legal issue that there might be about using a lease?
 - A. No, no.
 - Q. So at this period of time in -- well, this idea is --
 - A. Let me back up on that.
- **Q. Sure.**

- A. The only thing I know from that discussion was that they had used license agreements that had been short and long, and they had used leases which seemed to be longer. So there was this discussion about if we moved forward with this how would we do that.
- Q. Okay. So there was discussion about whether there could be a lease or a license?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Did the topic come up that if there's a license that the issue might need to be submitted to the voters for approval --
 - A. Not at that --
 - Q. -- in these meetings?
 - A. (Nods negatively.)
- Q. In none of these meetings that you attended do you recall the issue of having to have an election brought up as a topic of discussion with the Decker Lake folks?
 - A. Not at these meetings.
- Q. Okay. When do you recall that first coming to your attention as an issue about whether voter approval would be required to use this parkland?
- A. Sometime there was -- at some point, there was a meeting with Bert and Leela Fireside from this Law Department, and Bert asked me to be present at that

meeting. And at that meeting -
MR. COPPOLA: Well, we don't need to

discuss what we've talked about at that meeting.

THE WITNESS: Sorry.

Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) If you were getting legal

- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) If you were getting legal advice, I don't need to --
 - A. I was getting legal advice.
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. Sorry.
- Q. Okay. But at any of the meetings with Richard Suttle or Mr. Bellomy -- well, let me ask you first. At the meeting that you're referring to, were -- was there anyone who doesn't work for the City of Austin present?
- A. No.

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- Q. Okay. And in the meetings that you had with Mr. Bellomy or Mr. Suttle, when is it you first recall discussing with them about whether an election would be necessary to use this parkland?
- A. I never discussed it with them.
- Q. Okay. I see that the -- that documents, at least as I printed them out, I suppose, had another meeting that actually occurred between July and October, and that was August the 20th. If I'm reading this correctly, this was not a meeting you were involved in. Is that your recollection?

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- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. Okay. So is it your testimony that to the best of your recollection the City Manager did not attend any of the meetings that are in Exhibit 9?
 - A. No.
- Q. And you're pretty sure that there was a meeting with the City Manager, you, at least a couple of people from Decker Lake Golf, and Mr. Suttle prior to March the 26th, 2013?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Do you recall how you were -- mechanically how you were asked to attend that meeting? And I could be more specific and say, was it with an Outlook meeting request like this (indicating)?
 - A. I don't recall.
- 16 Q. Okay.
 - MR. COPPOLA: You want to take another quick break here?
- MR. ALESHIRE: Okay.
- 20 (BRIEF RECESS)
 - Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Referring back now to the meetings that we were talking about that occurred in 2015 between you and Richard Suttle and the Decker Lane folks, was Mr. Suttle there as a lobbyist for the Decker Lake proposers?

60 MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form. 1 2 I don't know. Α. 3 (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Well, why was Mister -- what Ο. 4 was your understanding why Mr. Suttle was invited to 5 those meetings? 6 Α. He introduced the people to Marc, the City 7 Manager. 8 But in the meetings that you attended with Q. 9 Mr. Suttle, why was Mr. Suttle in those meetings? 10 MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form. 11 I don't remember meeting with Mr. Suttle and Α. 12 those individuals independently. 13 MR. ALESHIRE: I didn't really ask that. 14 (BY MR. ALESHIRE) I asked, in the meetings Q. 15 that you were in with Mr. Suttle and Mr. Hayes and 16 others from Decker Lake, why was Mr. Suttle there? 17 Α. I don't --18 MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form. -- know. 19 Α. 20 (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Q. Huh? 21 I don't know. Α. 22 Q. You don't know. Okay. Why was Mr. Hayes 23 there? 24 Α. I think he's the one that owned the property. 25 Q. Next to Walter Long Park?

1 A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. So you understood that he was one of the principals involved in the business that would build or operate the PGA golf courses, right?
- A. The discussions that we had were that he owned this property and they were exploring opportunities, but that was it.
- Q. Okay. But he was there because they -- he was a property owner and he was going to --
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. -- make a business proposition --
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. -- if you will, to the City --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- right? That's why Warren Hayes was there?
- 16 A. (Nods affirmatively.)
- Q. Okay. How about Gary Bellomy?
- A. I was -- don't remember Gary Bellomy being there. He could have been. I just don't remember.
 - Q. Okay. Now, was -- did Mr. Suttle own some property? Did he indicate to you that he was going to be a part of the business --
- 23 A. No.
- Q. -- proposition?
- 25 A. No.

1 Q. Okay. It's a real simple question. Was 2 Mr. Suttle there as the lobbyist for them? 3 MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form. I don't really know. 4 Α. 5 (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Do you know what Mr. Suttle Ο. 6 does for a living? 7 Α. He is an attorney. 8 Do you know if he is a lobbyist? Q. 9 Sometimes he is. Α. 10 And when he approaches city offices with Q. 11 propositions, is that a time when he's acting as a 12 lobbyist? 13 MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form. 14 Sometimes there are, and sometimes there's not. Α. 15 (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Okay. And on these Q. 16 occasions when you met with Mr. Suttle, was he there as 17 a lobbyist? 18 MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form. 19 I don't know. I don't know whether he had been Α. 20 paid by those individuals or whether he had just met 21 them and introduced them. So I truly do not know. 22 (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Okay. And if someone asks Q. 23 to meet with you to pitch an idea like this or asks for 24 something -- some consideration from you or your office,

do you routinely check to see whether or not that

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individual is registered as a lobbyist?

- A. No.
- Q. Is there any procedure you have about accepting meetings or not as to whether or not when you know that someone is coming to pitch an idea to you like this to make sure whether they are registered --
- A. No.
 - Q. -- under the city ordinance or not?
 - A. No. I have not done that.
- Q. Okay. So would it surprise you to know that Richard Suttle was during 2013 a registered lobbyist with the City of Austin?
- 13 A. No.
 - Q. Okay. In fact, you know he was a lobbyist during that period of time, don't you?
- A. I don't know for a fact that during that period of time he had registered. I do know that he has been registered.
 - Q. Are you familiar with the current registration -- lobby registration laws that require a lobbyist to indicate who their clients are?
- MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.
- 23 A. No.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Not familiar with that?
- 25 A. No.

Α.

Yes.

1 Q. Would it surprise you to learn that none 2 of the individuals or businesses that were involved in 3 the Decker Lake Golf proposal were listed on 4 Mr. Suttle's lobby registration as a client? MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form. 5 6 Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Would it surprise you? 7 I'm not aware of any of that. Α. 8 Okay. When people come to your office for a Q. 9 meeting, are they required to sign a log? 10 Α. No. 11 Is there any process in your office by which Q. 12 you determine whether someone who is meeting with you is 13 a registered lobbyist or not? 14 Α. No. 15 Ms. Edwards, I want to try now to get an Q. 16 understanding of how records are organized in your 17 office, basically where they reside and how records are 18 generated or stored in your office. That's generally 19 where I'm headed with this line of questioning. 20 Does your office have its own computer 21 server just for your ACM? 22 Α. No. 23 Okay. And so is the computer terminal at your Q. 24 desk hooked up to some broader system --

- Q. -- somewhere? Do you know who else is on that system?
- A. I'm not sure what you're asking now. Who can get --
- Q. I'll tell you that Mister -- let's refer to email accounts now as opposed to document storage but email accounts. I understand you use Outlook. Is that right?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. And do you know where those Outlook e-mail files are retained, your emails? Are they retained only locally on your computer --
 - A. No. They're --
 - Q. -- or are they in the system?
- A. They're in the broad server system for the City.
 - Q. Okay. Is -- are you aware of -- when a PIR is requesting records from the mayor and city council, are you aware of how those emails are searched and located to -- as potentially responsive to the PIR?
 - A. It's my understanding that CTM searches for those.
 - Q. And are you aware that the mayor and council emails are in a cloud, if you understand what that term means? Were you aware of that?

A. No.

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Q. Okay. So CTM is able to search in that cloud all of the mayor and city manager's emails that are in that Outlook system?

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

MR. ALESHIRE: Okay.

- A. I don't know.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Does CTM search your emails when there's a PIR --
 - A. I don't know.
 - Q. -- that might involve them?
- A. I don't know. I don't -- I don't really understand the system itself. As I understand, CTM always searches for the mayor and council. I don't know whether they always search for ours or not.
- Q. To the best of your knowledge, who searches your email files to locate potentially responsive records when a PIR is received?
- A. Jessica Bluebird and Marie Sandoval.
 - Q. And as far as you know, that's the only people that search your records?
 - A. I don't know for sure because there are searches when we are doing an investigation. We have CTM search an individual's emails. So I don't know whether or not that's happened with me or not.

67 1 Q. Well, my question was limited to the receipt of 2 a PIR, a public information request. For the most part, to the best of my knowledge, 3 Jessica Bluebird and Marie Sandoval are the ones who 4 5 search. 6 Q. Now, in your Outlook file, you have an 7 option -- well, you have various boxes, right, like an 8 Inbox, correct? 9 Uh-huh. Α. 10 MR. COPPOLA: You need to --11 Yes. Sorry. Keep on reminding me. Α. 12 (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Sent box? Q. 13 Α. Yes. 14 Q. Delete box? 15 Α. Yes. 16 Q. Junk box? 17 Α. Yes. 18 When searches are done, do you know if -- do Q. 19 you know whether or not your Delete box is searched? 20 Yes. It is. Α. 21 Q. And what happens to items that are in that Delete box? 22 23 MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form. 24 I don't understand --Α. 25 Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) What is --

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- A. -- the question.
- Q. Is the Delete box emptied after a period of time, or does anything deleted stay in the Delete box --

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) -- indefinitely?

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

- A. If I delete it, it goes to my Delete box. But then periodically it gets full, and then I delete the Delete box. And as best I know, that goes into CTM. It's already in CTM.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) And is the criteria used whether or not to perform that delete-delete based on the Delete box being full?
 - A. Yes.
- 15 **Q. And --**
- A. Not always so.
- 17 Q. Okay.
- 18 A. I mean, sometimes you just clean them out.
- Q. Okay. So you might not wait till it got full before you started deleting?
 - A. That's correct.
 - Q. Is there any particular criteria you use about what goes into that Delete box?
- A. Junk mail, "Can you go to lunch today,"

 anything that is just administerial kinds of things that

- we don't keep, anything that might be a cc: to me, not 1 2 directly sent to me will go in that Delete box. 3 Q. Okay. Do you have more than one email address? 4 Α. For work, no. 5 For personal? Q. Yes. I have one. 6 Α. 7 Q. Is -- what is the work email address that you 8 have? 9 boxer226@aol --Α. 10 MR. COPPOLA: Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! 11 MR. ALESHIRE: No. 12 (BY MR. ALESHIRE) The work email address? Q. Oh, the work email address? Sorry. I was 13 Α. 14 thinking of something else, sue.edwards@austintexas.gov. 15 Have you ever used sedwards@austintexas.gov? Q. 16 Α. No. 17 Do you use text messages for work? Q. 18 Sometimes. Α. 19
- 21 Α. Yes.

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Q.

text messages?

Is that a phone provided by the City of Austin? Q.

And is there a phone that you use for those

- 23 Α. No.
 - How are those text messages searched if they Q. would be relevant to a PIR?

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- A. The only text messages I use on my phone that relate to work are between Jessica and me as an example that says you have a meeting at 9:00 a.m. or Marie that says, "Can I pick up something? You want coffee?" I do not use my phone for substantial work.
- Q. Do you receive text messages from people that are about official business other than your staff?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Has Mr. Suttle texted you?
- 10 A. Yes, he has.
 - Q. And since January 1st, 2013?
- 12 A. The only time that Mr. Suttle has texted me is,
 13 "What time is our meeting?" There has been nothing
 14 substantial.
 - Q. Did you search for any text messages received from Mr. Suttle --
- 17 A. Yes, I did. I'm sorry.
- 18 Q. Okay. And did you find any?
- 19 A. No.
- Q. Okay. How long are your text messages
- 21 retained?
- 22 A. On my phone?
- 23 **Q. Uh-huh.**
- A. I don't know.
- Q. Have you deleted text messages that you

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Q.

Α.

personal computer?

No, I do not.

1 received from Mr. Suttle? 2 Other than "What time is the meeting," no. Α. 3 0. If I understand your answer, the answer is yes, 4 but they may have been texts that asked about what time 5 a meeting is occurring? Α. 6 Yes. 7 Do you recall getting text messages from Q. 8 Mr. Suttle that concerned using Walter E. Long Park for 9 PGA golf courses? 10 Α. No, I have not. 11 Q. Do you tweet? 12 Α. I don't tweet. 13 Do you work from home? Q. 14 Periodically. Α. 15 What device or devices do you use, for example, Q. 16 to do email from home about official city business? 17 I go into the Internet to connect to my Α. 18 computer. 19 Q. A personal computer at home? 20 Α. Yes. 21 Did the City supply that computer to you? Q. 22 Α. No.

Okay. Do you retain city records on that

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- Q. Okay. On your computer terminal at your office, are there various drives like a C drive?
- A. Yes, there are.
 - Q. What are those drives, if you recall?
- A. G. I don't know. I only use G drive. That's all I know.
- Q. Okay. Are you aware that there's a C drive, which would be a local drive?
 - A. Yes. There is a local drive.
- Q. Okay. Do you keep city business records in that C drive?
 - A. Rarely.
 - Q. Do you understand that in order for someone to access your C drive they either have to be actually using your computer or be permitted to come into your computer terminals to see your C drive?
 - A. Yes, I do. Jessica searches from my own -- from my computer at work --
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. -- in my office.
 - Q. So you anticipated my question. When a search is made from a PIR, your C drive is searched by actually using your computer terminal?
- 24 A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. And do you know for sure that she did

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- that in each -- or that someone on your staff searched your C drive for the records requested in 1 through 4 -- Exhibits 1 through 4?
 - A. I don't know for sure.
 - O. You don't know?
- A. She knows to do that, but I didn't ask specifically.
 - Q. Okay. So to the best of your knowledge, you don't know whether your C drive was searched for these records that Mr. Rodgers requested?
- 11 A. No, I do not.
- Q. Okay. Is the G drive, then, one that is shared by several users?
- 14 A. Yes, it is.
 - Q. And does your staff routinely search the G drive --
- 17 A. Yes, they do.
- 18 Q. -- for records that are responsive?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Do you receive voice messages?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Do you receive them on your office phone?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you receive them on your -- do you have a mobile phone?

A. Yes.

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- Q. Does the City supply you with that mobile phone?
 - A. No.
- Q. Do you receive voice messages about city business on your personal phone -- mobile phone?
- A. Rarely.
 - Q. But it occurs?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What do you do with those voice messages, if anything, that are on your personal phone but about city business?
 - A. I don't do anything with them.
 - Q. Okay. And do you -- do they stay on your phone or would they still be there, say, for the last two years or would they go off of your phone for some reason?
 - A. No. They will go off of the phone. But, again, those kinds of messages that I receive that are text messages are usually from Marie and from Jessica. Not very many people have access to my cell phone number. I don't use it normally for business.
 - Q. Right. But Mr. Suttle does because he's sent you text messages before, right?
 - A. He has sent me a text before, yes.

- Q. Has he sent you voice messages?
- A. No.

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- Q. And I'm only referring to voice messages that have to do with city business?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And you don't forward those voice messages into a city record --
 - A. I don't think we can.
- Q. Okay. Are you aware of a city policy that requires city employees to forward email and text into city records if they are received or created on your personal email accounts?
- A. Yes, I am.
- Q. Is it your understanding that that policy does not apply to voice messages about city business?
- A. I don't -- I don't know. We have not discussed that, and I wouldn't know how to send it.
- Q. Okay. Is it your understanding under that policy that if you receive a text message on your personal phone that is about city business that you can go ahead and delete it directly without forwarding it to the city servers if you feel like it's something that you could delete under the records retention schedule?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. So your understanding of the policy is that if

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you conduct city business in the form of a text -- or receive city business or conduct city business in the form of a text on your personal device that you don't need to first forward that to the City and then consider deleting it?

- A. No.
- Q. Okay. Are you able to receive emails on your personal phone -- access your office emails on your personal phone?
- 10 A. I wish I had my phone here. I'm sorry. I
 11 can't --
- 12 Q. Well, I'd say lucky you if you can.
 - A. I -- I would say yes. Yes, I am.
- 14 Q. Have you read --
- 15 A. Yes.
 - Q. Have you read --
- 17 A. Yes, I am. I am.
- 18 Q. -- emails on your personal phone?
- 19 A. I just blanked out, yes.
- 20 **Q.** Okay.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. All right.
- 23 A. I just blanked out.
- Q. So let me make sure our record is clear. So have you received emails and read emails on your

personal phone that are about city business?

- A. Yes, but it is on the city email account.
- Q. Okay.
- A. I have two accounts. I have a personal account and a city account.
- Q. Okay. Since January 1st, 2013, have you received any emails to your personal email account that were about city business?
 - A. No.
- Q. Have you sent from your personal email account any email to anyone else since January 1st, 2013 that is about official business of the City?
- A. When you say "official business," the only things that I send are those minor administrative types of things like "I'm running late" or "Do you want me to bring you coffee," or those sorts of things. But when you're talking about official city business, no.
- Q. So if you send from your personal email account an email about official business of the City to someone on a city email address, that's going to automatically be in the city records?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. But if you send an email from your personal email account to someone who's not in the city email system but it's about official business of the City,

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that's not going to automatically be in the city system?

- A. I don't do that.
- Q. Okay. And that was the nature of my question, is since January 1st, 2013, have you sent an email to anyone not with the City about anything to do with official business of the City?
- A. (Nods negatively.)

MR. COPPOLA: You need to --

- A. No.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Okay. Do you recall the
 last time that you received a text about city business
 on your phone and forwarded that text into the city
 records?
 - A. No, I don't.
 - Q. Do you know how to do that?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And I was referring to text messages.
- 18 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. But you don't know how to forward a voice message?
- 21 A. No.
- Q. Okay. Just to sum up, regarding Mr. Rodgers'
 PIRs, public information requests, you are not
 personally aware of what computer drives were searched
 to the extent that your records were searched in

response to those PIRs?

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

A. The only one that I am not absolutely positive about was the C drive because I did not ask specifically; although, all of the searches were done from my person -- my -- my computer -- my own computer --

MR. ALESHIRE: Okay.

- A. -- in the office.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) And is it your testimony that you either do know or -- I'm asking you to clarify whether you know whether all of your Outlook boxes, Inbox, Sent box, Delete, Junk, all were searched to see if you had responsive records to the Rodgers PIRs.
 - A. To the very best of my knowledge, that is true.
- Q. I want to turn now to your email habits, and I'll explain to you why. I showed you earlier Exhibit 8 where I had written an email on behalf of Mr. Rodgers on April 8th expressing some frustration that it didn't seem like we were getting prompt responses to some of Mr. Rodgers' requests, and I even had -- made reference there that we had indicated there that if we had to we were going to go file a lawsuit.

Okay. That email specifically pointed as an example what seemed to us to be a very unlikely

situation that you would have had several meetings prior to the formal issuance of the RFQS for Decker Lake Golf -- or for the golf proposal over the course of several meetings in 2013 and not have a single email with Richard Suttle as one example to you or from you about that rather major proposal being to bring PGA golf here.

So I -- since the lawsuit was filed, the City Attorney's Office has provided 12,536 pages of emails, and to some extent a few other records, that they indicate are responsive to Mr. Rodgers' requests and including the proposal for the 75 acres of parkland to become golf courses and the 75 acres of parkland along Bull Creek. You were involved in both of those issues at least to some extent. They cover a time period from January 1st, 2013 to April of 2014 when the last request was submitted, and I did a search of those documents for your name to locate emails that were sent to you or from you.

I don't really expect you to go through this, but Exhibit 10 is the product of printing out at least the first page of each email that indicated that you were sent an email or most often just copied on an email or that you sent, and the result is that I found only seven emails from you on any of these topics during the entire time period, seven emails only. None of them

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were substantive. They were about whether you were going to a meeting or not, and I'll show them to you so I'm not mischaracterizing it. And I found only 83 emails even addressed to you even if you were just copied on them, and in almost all those cases, very rarely were you the direct recipient on it as opposed to just being on a list. This includes all of the correspondence with the DAA as well as the other people listed in Exhibit 4, all the issues about the Decker Lake Golf and the Bull Creek and so forth. So I'm coming to a question.

I hope you will understand and not take deep offense as what you see in the record as us complaining or questioning the City as to whether we have gotten all the records that would have come from your office. I'm left to wonder why someone in a big and important a job as you have doesn't have more substantive emails out there. So I'm trying to figure out whether on the one hand the system or individuals had failed to actually locate and produce those records or whether you just don't write very many emails.

Can you help me understand why we're not finding more emails from you?

A. I hope I can.

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form. Go ahead.

A. First of all, once the Decker Lake people were all set up and they were on their way, I really had nothing to do with the Decker Lake true negotiations. I was not involved in them at all. So there was no reason for me to have any emails going back and forth. When you looked at the Bull Creek piece of property, the Office of Real Estate did most of what was going on.

I don't write very many emails. I prefer to have somebody come in and talk to me. And when we talked about Bull Creek, the Office of Real Estate came in and talked to me about what they were doing. I'm very much -- I learn by listening and watching other people.

- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Do you recall approximately when that meeting -- when you had meetings with Real Estate about potential for the City purchasing Bull Creek property?
 - A. I don't remember exactly.
 - Q. Was it within the last year or two or --
 - A. Uh-huh, yes.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. I've been in this business for 21 years this last time. I just don't write that many emails. I am not the kind of person that feels like I can communicate when I write emails. I don't like to write, period. So

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- you'll see that most of my emails are really very brief in response. That has been my practice over the last 21 years. I'm not hiding anything at all.
- Q. When you give direction to your department directors or department personnel on major issues -- like would you agree that Bull Creek -- the potential purchase of that was a pretty big issue?
 - A. Uh-huh.
- Q. And certainly the golf -- the parkland to golf course conversion was a big issue, was it not?
 - A. It was. But I was not involved in it.
- Q. Okay. Well, you were only tangentially involved. Is that fair to say because you did review the RFQS and make comments?
- A. Yes. That's all I did.
 - Q. And you did set up meetings --
- 17 A. Yes.
 - Q. -- about it that led to this RFQS?
- 19 A. Yes.
 - Q. But is there a reason why you would not have occasion to put anything about your thoughts on those issues in writing in an email?
- MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.
- A. I'll say it again. I really communicate
 one-on-one better, and it's easier for me to communicate

one-on-one. I really do not like writing. I don't like even writing memos when the City Manager says, "Hey, would you write a memo for me?"

Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Okay. I appreciate that explanation. Just out of fairness to you, I'm going to show you -- I'm going to give you the Bates numbers here just of the seven emails that I found that originated from you. That's 12156. This is part of the request for the DAA correspondence. And I notice you didn't -- most of the emails that we've located that you wrote were emails relating to the DAA interaction.

The next one is on 12169.

- A. Wait. What is the interaction? What does the DAA have to do with this? Can you help me out here?
- Q. Yes. One of the very first requests that Mr. Rodgers made on No. 1 was a request for all correspondence from or to city officials, including the City -- the mayor, the city council, the city manager and the ACMs. That was his request during a particular period of time -- I think an 18-month period of time, all the correspondence with the individuals' addresses that were listed. I showed you Request No. 1 early on where we listed actually URLs and email addresses to check, and these are the only -- out of that --
 - A. But for any particular reason?

1 Q. No, no. 2 Α. Okay. 3 It was actually less expensive to check for Q. 4 emails without having a subject matter if it was just 5 for certain email accounts and so forth. I have 12171. I'm not sure which is --6 7 This is -162. Α. 8 Okay. And then -169 is the next one. I just Q. 9 want you to be able to see. I'm not going to ask you a 10 question about any of them, 169. 11 MR. COPPOLA: Is there something specific 12 she should be looking for? 13 (BY MR. ALESHIRE) I -- in all fairness, I told Ο. 14 you there were seven emails that I saw written from you, 15 and I'm --16 MR. COPPOLA: Oh, you're showing her the 17 emails that were written by her? 18 MR. ALESHIRE: That were written by her. 19 MR. COPPOLA: I'm sorry. 20 (BY MR. ALESHIRE) And then 12174. And I agree Q. 21 with you if you -- as you look at those, they are very 22 succinct, and 12175, and the last one is 12177. I think 23 we're getting close here. 24 With regard to any of the Brian Rodgers

public information requests, were you asked by anyone to

check your personal email account for records that might be responsive to his PIRs?

- A. Yes, I was.
- Q. And when was that request made?
- A. When -- I don't remember the exact date, but whenever we receive these, I'm always asked to do that. I mean, I know to do that, too.
- Q. I understand. So back in March or April of this year when the requests were received, is that when you were asked to check your personal email accounts?
 - A. I don't recall the dates.
- Q. Do you know if it was before the lawsuit was filed? And the lawsuit was filed June 11th.
 - A. I --
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. I don't recall.
- Q. Okay. I'm going to hand you the last exhibit which is Exhibit 11, and I'm going to represent to you that those are emails from me and sometimes to me that relate to the complaints that we had about the response from the City of Austin to Mr. Rodgers' requests that became part of this lawsuit.

I want to rather quickly go through, and I'm going to ask you if you recall receiving any of these complaints and show you what we had done during

the period of time from when the requests were submitted, responses were either coming or not all the way until June 11th when we finally filed the lawsuit. And what I'm trying to do with this last part is to see what information you were provided during this period of time about the complaints we were raising on public information requests that at least some of them related to your office.

- A. Okay.
- Q. The first one is dated March 31st, and we received notice from the Law Department, that they were asking for an Attorney General's ruling on one of the requests that we made. And I pointed out March 31st that the City had not provided any of the records that Mr. Rodgers had requested there and so if they were going to withhold all the records and ask the AG for a ruling. That's what that first two -- that first set -- they're paper-clipped together as a set.

The second one is April the 7th from me to Elaine Nichols in the Law Department. This is April the 7th pointing out that the council was getting ready to consider the Decker Golf contract and that we were complaining that the records had not been forthcoming, and here it is -- you know, if you look at this, this is well past 10 working days from the requests that were

submitted in March.

April the 13th, I was -- I had written to Catherine Riley and Elaine Nicholson and pointing out that we still had not received additional information from Terry Nicholson. If you will scan down, you'll see that while we got an initial response to that open records request concerning negotiations of the Decker contract, including some from Mr. Nicholson, we had complained that we didn't think we had them all, and Mr. Nicholson indicated that, in fact, he did have some more and was going to supplement them. But I followed up -- that was back in early April -- earlier in April. I followed up April 13th saying we still hadn't received that information.

April the 15th, I responded again to the city personnel and indicated that on the Bull Creek and the contract negotiations and what we had called the genesis of this idea of the parkland for golf course use that I had expressed doubt about whether the City had provided all of the information, noted that we hadn't received hardly any correspondence from the City Manager or assistants or the councilmembers, expressed doubt as to whether or not was getting all the records and indicated that we were trying to exercise patience and not go ahead and sue. That was on April 15th.

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April 22nd, I write to Ms. Riley, indicating I appreciated her phone call and updating the City's progress to get the public information, indicating again it comes a point at which we need the City's folks to comply.

April the 24th, in three -- the next three emails are basically all the same thing. We had -- in requests -- for each one of the requests, we had asked -- we had come back -- after we didn't get the records, we came back and asked for that PIR processing log or workflow that we were looking at, the Exhibit Cs that we had talked about early. And we had asked for those actual logs because, as you can see from studying them, they show more detail. They show the date and who was copied and what was going on. And Mr. Del Bosque had -- instead of sending the log for those requests, had sent an email, if you look on the second page, listing the entities that had been contacted but not providing the logs. So we wrote back to him and pointed out this is not responsive to the request, and they did that on April the 24th for the next three requests.

That same day we got a notice that the responsive records might not be provided until May the 11th, and so on the 24th we protested the delay until May the 11th. We weren't given any reason why a

March 13th PIR would be delayed for a response until May the 11th.

April the 28th I wrote back to Mr. Del Bosque pointing out it had been over 40 days since we had asked for some of those records and again asking what's it going to take, a lawsuit, to get more serious attention to the failure to promptly comply with the Public Information Act.

Then on May the 14th -- this is after

May 11th that we had been told we would get the

reports -- I sent a pretty comprehensive -- if you look

at this email, a pretty comprehensive list of exactly

what we had not received from the March and April

reports. And I pointed out that we hadn't received any,

any records for the first four that are listed there,

including email correspondence with the Downtown Austin

Alliance. So May the 14th we tried to make it clear

that we still hadn't received anything and we hadn't

received those tracking reports -- those three tracking

reports; expressed doubt elsewhere in it that we had

received everything as well.

Then on May the 15th I received another notice saying that it was going to be delivered now.

Now, all of that correspondence was sent to the City by us before we finally filed a lawsuit on

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June the 11th, and the allegations in the lawsuit track exactly what was in that notice of May the 14th, almost a month earlier, pointing out that we hadn't received any of those records.

My first general question to you is whether or not you aware that we were making those complaints about actually not receiving anything in response to four of those requests.

- A. No.
- Q. As an assistant general manager, what is your expectation of what staff who is involved in responding to public information should do when they receive that kind of complaint?
- A. I would expect that they would respond. But, again, I would say there are all kinds of different circumstances that may occur. People may be out of town. People may be on vacation. And it's not as simple as it looks. I think again that my expectation is certainly that everybody respond to the best of their ability. But there are many departments involved, and there are many people who sometimes are there and sometimes not when a request comes in so that they sometimes can't meet those deadlines.

And there's a lot -- as I said before, there's a volume of pages of things that they have to go

through because a lot of times we send everything we have, and it may not be applicable. And so you have to go through each one of those pieces of paper in order to make sure that it is, and when everybody is doing that, it takes a while sometimes to do that.

Q. Well -- and while it might be true that sometimes it takes a while to gather up -- locate and gather up and analyze whether to release certain records -- I take that as part of the spirit of your response. But when you get that many complaints from an attorney saying, "Listen, we're going to have to sue if you don't respond to us," would it be your expectation that somebody might just send an explanation as to why the delay is occurring, just an email to say that so-and-so has been out of work or we've got a lot of records to look for? Would it be your expectation you'd get some kind of expectation even if you didn't get the records themselves?

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

- A. It's my expectation that we all do the very best that we can.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) And do you think there would be -- a reason why Mr. Del Bosque, for example, wouldn't have been able to respond to that May 14th detail letter saying, "Here's four PIRs done in March that I haven't

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received anything for," and he might write back and say why we hadn't received anything?

- A. I don't know what the --
 - MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.
- A. I don't know what the circumstances were.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Okay. But you can imagine that there would be circumstances under which you really wouldn't expect anyone who was addressed on that email to respond back and say, "Here's why you haven't received any of those records"?

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

- A. I don't know who the responsible person is ultimately, and I don't know what the circumstances were.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Is this the way you think the PIR system ought to work from what you've seen?

MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form.

- A. I think that we always can improve what we do.
- MR. ALESHIRE: I have just a couple of more specific follow-ups, and then I'm going to be done.
- Q. (BY MR. ALESHIRE) Did you have any oral or written communication with Gary Bradley about purchasing the Bull Creek property?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Were you aware that Gary Bradley had offered to

1 assist the City in acquiring the 75 acres at Bull Creek? 2 Α. No. 3 0. No one ever told you that? No. I heard Gary Bradley was out there, but I 4 5 didn't hear anything, that he wanted to assist the City. 6 Q. Do you recall who told you that Gary Bradley 7 was out there? Junie Plummer. 8 Α. 9 And who is she? Q. She works with the Office of Real Estate. 10 Α. 11 And is it spelled P-l-u-m-m-a-r? Q. 12 MR. COPPOLA: -e-r. 13 Α. -e-r, P-l-u-m-m-e-r. 14 (BY MR. ALESHIRE) And what did she tell you Q. 15 about that Bradley was interested in? 16 It was a rumor. I heard he was out there Α. 17 interested. 18 Q. Okay. But she hadn't received any 19 correspondence from him? 20 Α. I don't know. 21 MR. COPPOLA: Objection, form. 22 Α. I don't know. 23 Did she tell you whether she had received any Q. 24 correspondence --25 Α. No, she did not.

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- 1 Q. -- from Gary Bradley? 2 Α. No. 3 MR. ALESHIRE: I'll pass the witness. 4 5 EXAMINATION BY MR. COPPOLA:
 - I just have -- I had one or two quick questions Q. for you, Ms. Edwards. My name is Chris Coppola. assistant city attorney with the City of Austin.

At some point during Mr. Aleshire's direct examination of you, he was asking you if you knew whether Ms. Bluebird had searched the C drive on your computer. Do you recall those questions?

- Α. Yes.
- I think your response was she searched your Q. terminal, but you weren't a hundred percent sure that she searched the C drive. Is that about right?
 - Α. That's correct.
- Q. Have you ever given Ms. Bluebird instruction that she should search the C drive when she searches on your computer?
- I just asked her to search everything on the computer.
 - And do you know in the past whether she Q. searched your C drive before?

Sue Edwards August 28, 2015

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1	CHANGES AND SIGNATURE	
2	WITNESS NAME: SUE EDWARDS	
3	DATE OF DEPOSITION: August 28, 2015	
4	PAGE LINE CHANGE REASON	
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1	I, SUE EDWARDS, have read the foregoing deposition and	
2	hereby affix my signature that same is true and correct,	
3	except as noted above.	
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6	SUE EDWARDS	
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8	THE STATE OF TEXAS)	
9	COUNTY OF TRAVIS)	
10	Before me,, on	
11	this day personally appeared SUE EDWARDS, known to me	
12	(or proved to me under oath or through)	
13	(description of identity or other document) to be the	
14	person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing	
15	instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she executed	
16	the same for the purposes and consideration therein	
17	expressed.	
18	Given under my hand and seal of office	
19	this, day of,,	
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22	NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR	
23	THE STATE OF	
24	MY COMMISSION EXP.:	
25		

100 time said testimony was taken, the following includes 1 2 all parties of record: 3 BILL ALESHIRE, Attorney for PLAINTIFF CHRISTOPHER COPPOLA, Attorney for DEFENDANT 4 5 That I am neither counsel for, related to, 6 nor employed by any of the parties or attorneys in the 7 action in which this proceeding was taken and, further, that I am not financially or otherwise interested in the 8 outcome of the action; 9 10 Further certification requirements pursuant to 11 Rule 203 of TRCP will be certified to after they have 12 occurred. 13 CERTIFIED TO BY ME this day of September, 14 2015. 15 16 17 LYDIA L. EDWARDS, CSR 2567 Certified Shorthand Reporter 18 For the State of Texas Expiration Date: 12-31-16 19 JOB 15039 20 21 22 23 24 2.5