Dear Mr. Schwartz:

Attached please find the response to your recent public records request. Thank you for reaching out to our Office.

Regards,
Jamie

Jamie Renner
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Vermont Attorney General
109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05609
Dir: 802-828-5947
March 30, 2020

Mr. Dan Schwartz

SENT BY ELECTONIC MAIL:
danschwartz300@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

Thank you for your public records request of March 23, 2020.

You requested: “any and all records related to reports, correspondences including emails or memos or written messages, complaints, investigations, or any other documentation concerning the American Society of Dowsers, a Vermont nonprofit corporation, that the Vermont Attorney Generals Office produced or obtained between January 18, 2019, to the date this request is fulfilled.”

Attached please find responsive records related to your request. Information contained in internal communications of the Attorney General’s Office that contains work product or attorney client communication has been redacted pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(3) and (4).

If you feel information has been withheld in error, you may appeal to Deputy Attorney General Joshua Diamond.

Thank you for reaching out to our Office.

Sincerely,

Jamie Renner
Assistant Attorney General
Good morning, Jamie, I just left you a message. Yes, I am still representing ASD. Feel free to give me a call at (781)608-6727 or (877)525-5529.

Happy New Year!

Best regards,

Jen

Jennifer B. Black, Esquire (licensed in Vermont and Massachusetts)
Bucknam Law, P.C.
434 Eastman Road
Walden, VT 05836
(802) 748-5525
(802) 748-4888 (fax)
www.vtlegalhelp.com

* * * * * * *

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Jennifer:

Are you still representing the American Society for the Dowsers? I was interested in checking in about the organization.

-Jamie

Jamie Renner
Sure thing. Thanks.

CC

Christopher J. Curtis
Chief, Public Protection Division
Office of the Attorney General
State of Vermont
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-5586

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From: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 10:48 AM
To: Curtis, Christopher <Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Media query: American Society of Dowsers

Let’s discuss this afternoon if you have time.
Charity

From: Dan Schwartz <danschwartz300@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 9:28 AM
To: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>
Subject: Media query: American Society of Dowsers

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.
Hi, Charity.

Thanks for the call back. Here are the questions I promised a while ago on the American Society of Dowsers, or ASD:

-- Does the AGO have an active investigation going into the ASD? I learned that it did after obtaining the records your office provided last year to Jennifer Black, with Buckman Law PC?
-- If the AGO closed the investigation, what actions did it bring, if any?

-- Did the AGO or any other office, federal or state, to your office's knowledge, confirm any financial crimes, such as embezzlement, had occurred at ASD?

Best,
Dan
--
Dan Schwartz | Journalist
cell: 774-644-2207
@Vtdanschwartz
danischwartz.com
National Writers Union member
Obviously, if he wants to reach out to interested parties they may or may not have a comment. Feel free to give a call if you want to discuss further. Thanks.

CC

Christopher J. Curtis
Chief, Public Protection Division
Office of the Attorney General
State of Vermont
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-5586

Hi, Chris,

Dan Schwartz is a freelancer who has done work for VTDigger in the past. He called to see if we have an investigation, open or closed, about the America Society of Dowsers. He directed me to the PRA request of an attorney named Jennifer Black (see 12/10/2018 entry here: https://ago.vermont.gov/open-government/2018-vermont-attorney-generals-office-public-record-act-requests-responses/). He plans to send me specific questions, and I will get those to you as well.

Thanks,
Charity
From: Matthews, Deborah  
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 4:18 PM  
To: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>; Diamond, Joshua <Joshua.Diamond@vermont.gov>; Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>  
Subject: PRESS CALL - Dan Schwartz - freelance reporter in Vermont - (774) 644-2207 (cell phone) - danschwartz300@gmail.com  
Importance: High

RE: American Society of Dowsers, Danville, VT – he is freelancing right now and is thinking of doing an article (which he will then pitch to a national publication) on the probe the AGO did on the American Society of Dowsers in Danville, VT. He asked specifically for Michael Powers. He said he’s in Vermont even though he has a Massachusetts number.
DEADLINE: 5pm Friday 2-28-2020
CALL REC’D: 2-25-2020 at 4:11pm

Deb Matthews  
Administrative Assistant  
Office of the Attorney General | GCAL  
109 State Street, 3rd Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05609  
Phone | 802-828-3689  
E-Mail \ deborah.matthews@vermont.gov
Hi Charity,

Let’s talk. Thanks.

CC

Christopher J. Curtis
Chief, Public Protection Division
Office of the Attorney General
State of Vermont
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-5586

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From: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Thompson, Julio <julio.thompson@vermont.gov>; Adams, Emily <Emily.Adams@vermont.gov>
Cc: Francis, Jennifer <Jennifer.Francis@vermont.gov>; Curtis, Christopher <Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov>; Mishaan, Jessica <Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov>; Matthews, Deborah <Deborah.Matthews@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: VTDigger Inquiry- Call to Michael Powers - FYI

Thanks. An individual not affiliated with Digger called yesterday asking for Michael Powers. The individual is from the American Society of Dowsers and described himself as a freelance reporter looking to pitch an article to a national publication. I will reach out to Digger about this.

Thanks,
Charity

From: Thompson, Julio
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 9:52 AM
To: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>; Adams, Emily <Emily.Adams@vermont.gov>
Cc: Francis, Jennifer <Jennifer.Francis@vermont.gov>; Curtis, Christopher <Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: VTDigger Inquiry- Call to Michael Powers - FYI

Thanks. An individual not affiliated with Digger called yesterday asking for Michael Powers. The individual is from the American Society of Dowsers and described himself as a freelance reporter looking to pitch an article to a national publication. I will reach out to Digger about this.

Thanks,
Charity
From: Adams, Emily <Emily.Adams@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 3:26:30 PM
To: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Julio <julio.thompson@vermont.gov>; Francis, Jennifer <Jennifer.Francis@vermont.gov>; Curtis, Christopher <Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov>
Subject: VTDigger Inquiry- Call to Michael Powers - FYI

Hi All-

I am writing to let you know that Michael Powers (retired investigator) just called to inform me that he received a phone call from a VT Digger reporter regarding [redacted]. The reporter indicated he had been through the public records process already. Michael referred him back to our office and did not provide any info. Michael also indicated he left a message for Chris as an FYI.

I am not familiar with [redacted] whether we have in fact responded to a public records request, but will look into it now. I wanted to give you all the heads up in case we receive further contact from Digger.

Let me know if you need anything further.

Best,
Emily

Emily Chamberlain Adams
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Unit
Vermont Attorney General’s Office
109 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05609
802-828-3177
emily.adams@vermont.gov

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Yes. We’re just trying to ascertain if there is anything new in the relevant timeframe.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 24, 2020, at 10:15 AM, Mishaan, Jessica <Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov> wrote:

Just FYI, we had a similar request on 12/10/18: https://ago.vermont.gov/open-government/2018-vermont-attorney-generals-office-public-record-act-requests-responses/

Hi, Chris,
Please see PRA below.
Thanks,
Charity

Deb Matthews
From: Dan Schwartz <danschwartz300@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 5:30 PM
To: AGO - Info <AGO.Info@vermont.gov>
Subject: Public records request: American Society of Dowsers

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.
To whom this may concern:

I am an independent journalist based in Vermont and I am requesting, through the Vermont Public Records Law (V.S.A. § 315-320), the following:

-- any and all records related to reports, correspondences including emails or memos or written messages, complaints, investigations, or any other documentation concerning the American Society of Dowsers, a Vermont nonprofit corporation, that the Vermont Attorney Generals Office produced or obtained between January 18, 2019, to the date this request is fulfilled.

Under the Public Records Law, the requested documents are to be made available within three business days of receiving my request. If they are in active use or in storage, a records custodian shall set a time within seven days of the AGO receiving my request to provide access to the records.

If any fees are assessed for copying, please alert me so that I may inspect the records on sight instead, which I understand is free based on a 2011 ruling by Washington Superior Court Judge Geoffrey Crawford in VSEA v. the state. Please also alert me to any other assessed fees before processing my request.

Also, should any information be redacted, please provide me a Vaughn Index summarizing the information that was withheld and the statutory justification for withholding it, per V.S.A. § 318(e).

If more information is needed or you believe my request can be narrowed, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Best,
Dan

Dan Schwartz | Journalist
cell: 774-644-2207
@Vtdanschwartz
danjschwartz.com
National Writers Union member