

From: [Clark, Charity](#)
To: [Meyn, Colin](#)
Subject: Public records request dated 5/5/20
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 8:32:38 PM
Attachments: [Meyn PRA Response 5.19.20.pdf](#)

Please see attached.

Charity R. Clark
Chief of Staff
Office of the Attorney General
109 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05609
802-828-3171

THOMAS J. DONOVAN, JR.
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JOSHUA R. DIAMOND
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

SARAH E.B. LONDON
CHIEF ASST. ATTORNEY GENERAL



TEL: (802) 828-3171

<http://www.ago.vermont.gov>

**STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT
05609-1001**

via email to cmeyn@vtdigger.org

May 19, 2020

Colin Meyn, Managing Editor
VTDigger.org

Re: Vermont Public Records Act request, dated May 5, 2020

Dear Colin:

I write in response to your request for public records, dated May 5, 2020. You requested:

Any and all email and text communications involving or between Attorney General TJ Donovan and Assistant Attorney General Molly Gray about providing Chromebooks to schools (as announced by the AG on Tuesday, 5/5).

Any and all email and text communications between the Attorney General's Office and representatives of Comcast, or intermediaries for either party, related to the "partnership" between these parties to provide Chromebooks to schools (as announced by the AG on Tuesday, 5/5).

Records responsive to your request are attached. Note that I have redacted a private email address. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ _____
Charity R. Clark
Chief of Staff

Attachment

From: [Donovan, Thomas](#)
To: [Jandl, Lauren](#)
Cc: [Clark, Charity](#)
Subject: RE: email
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 2:14:26 PM

My quote below:

Thanks

“I want to thank Comcast for making this investment in our future,” Attorney General Donovan said. “This is a challenging time for students, teachers, and parents and I appreciate my colleague Molly Gray bringing this need to attention. I know these Chromebooks will make all the difference to those who receive them.”

From: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 2:10 PM
To: Sutich, John <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>; Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: email

Thanks, John. We are hoping to issue the press release this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

Attached is the latest version of the press release (which now includes a quote from Superintendent Knisley.) Please feel free to email your quote to me directly.

Best,

Lauren

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Cc: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>; Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: email

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Lauren –

I'll have more of a sense of this timing by the end of the day. It would be tomorrow or Wednesday at the earliest.

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From: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Sutich, John [REDACTED]
Cc: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>; Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: email

Hello John,

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Best,

Lauren

Lauren Jandl
Assistant Director of Communications

Vermont Attorney General's Office
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
Cell: 802-595-8679
Desk: 802-828-3173
Email: lauren.jandl@vermont.gov

From: Sutich, John <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:05 PM
To: Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>
Cc: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>; Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>
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Thanks, General.

Charity and Lauren, do you have a draft release that you can share?

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From: Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:03 PM

To: Sutich, John <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>; Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] email

John,

Connecting you with Lauren.

Thanks again,

TJD

Text Communications.

April 23, 2020, 9:52 p.m. From John Sutich to Josh Diamond

Josh - good to chat today. My email is [REDACTED] Have a good night.
Sent from my iPhone

April 27, 2020, 11:40 a.m.

From John Sutich to Josh Diamond
Can I call you later?
Sent from my iPhone

From Josh Diamond to John Sutich

Yes, just trying to close the loop from Friday. Best, Josh
Sent from my iPhone

From John Sutich to Josh Diamond
I need about 45 min
Sent from my iPhone

May 1, 2020, 4:45 p.m.

From John Sutich to Josh Diamond

laptops are being shipped with Polaris transport and the delivery ETA is May 4th. The tracking number is P1659930 and can be tracked here: <https://www.polaristransport.com/> I believe the transport company has worked with the school to arrange a delivery date and time. Can we chat Monday about a press plan?

From: [Sutich, John](#)
To: [Jandl, Lauren](#)
Cc: [Clark, Charity](#); [Walden, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: Re: email
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 6:57:11 PM

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

Thanks, Lauren!

John

From: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 4:45:51 PM
To: Sutich, John [REDACTED] >
Cc: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>; Walden, Elizabeth <ELIZABETH_WALDEN@comcast.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: email

Hi John and Elizabeth,

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Thanks again for your help!

Lauren

From: Sutich, John [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 3:01 PM
To: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>
Cc: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>; Walden, Elizabeth <ELIZABETH_WALDEN@comcast.com>
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Please let me and Elizabeth Walden, copied here, when the release goes out and also the distribution list if possible.

Take care and thanks.

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109 State Street
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Cell: 802-595-8679
Desk: 802-828-3173
Email: lauren.jandl@vermont.gov

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Cc: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>; Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: email

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] email

John,
Connecting you with Lauren.
Thanks again,
TJD

From: [Walden, Elizabeth](#)
To: [Sutich, John](#); [Jandl, Lauren](#)
Cc: [Clark, Charity](#)
Subject: RE: email
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 3:02:45 PM

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Yes, thank you Lauren. It's been great to partner with you on this. Do you know if AG Donovan plans to tweet a link to the news?

Best,
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Walden
Public Relations
Comcast, Western New England
O: 860.505.3445
E: ELIZABETH_WALDEN@comcast.com
T: [@E_D_DUBS](#)

From: Sutich, John [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 10:25 AM
To: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>; Walden, Elizabeth <ELIZABETH_WALDEN@comcast.com>
Cc: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: email

Thanks!

From: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:36 AM
To: Walden, Elizabeth <ELIZABETH_WALDEN@comcast.com>; Sutich, John [REDACTED] >
Cc: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: email

Press release has gone out. Thank you again, John and Elizabeth, for partnering with us!

Lauren

From: Walden, Elizabeth <ELIZABETH_WALDEN@comcast.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 4:48 PM
To: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>; Sutich, John <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: email

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

Thank you, Lauren!

Elizabeth Walden

Public Relations

Comcast, Western New England

O: 860.505.3445

E: ELIZABETH_WALDEN@comcast.com

T: [@E_D_DUBS](https://twitter.com/E_D_DUBS)

From: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 4:46 PM

To: Sutich, John <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>; Walden, Elizabeth

<ELIZABETH_WALDEN@comcast.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: email

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Lauren –

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Take care and thanks.

John

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] email

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Thanks again,
TJD

**STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT 05609-1001**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 5, 2020

CONTACT: Charity R. Clark
802-828-3171

**ATTORNEY GENERAL DONOVAN PARTNERS WITH COMCAST TO ADDRESS
SHORTAGE OF LAPTOPS IN TIME OF REMOTE LEARNING**

250 Chromebooks Delivered to Orange-East Supervisory Union Students

MONTPELIER – Attorney General T.J. Donovan announced that he secured from Comcast a donation of 250 Chromebooks that were donated to a Vermont school district in need. As Vermont school children have shifted to remote learning, some pupils in the Orange-East Supervisory Union (OESU) did not have reliable access to tablets or computers. OESU consists of schools servicing Bradford, Newbury, Corinth, Groton, Ryegate, Thetford, Topsham, and Wells River. Students who are slotted to receive these Chromebooks attend Blue Mountain Union School, Newbury Elementary School, River Bend Career and Technical Center, and Waits River Valley School.

“I want to thank Comcast for making this investment in our future,” Attorney General Donovan said. “This is a challenging time for students, teachers, and parents. I know these Chromebooks will make all the difference to those who receive them.”

“Ensuring students have access to the resources to support their learning is critical during this time of Continuity of Learning,” said Secretary of Education Dan French. “I am grateful to Comcast for their generosity, and to the Attorney General for working to organize this donation to Orange-East.”

“The 250 Chromebooks will connect many students previously unable to access on-line remote learning,” said Superintendent Emilie Knisley. “We did not have the funds in our local budgets available to bridge this divide in connectivity. We appreciate the support of Attorney General Donovan, Secretary French, and Comcast in making this possible for the students of Orange-East Supervisory Union. This is a big step forward in breaking down the digital divide between students and technology.”

“As Vermont continues to manage the COVID-19 emergency, we recognize that our company plays an important role in helping Vermont students and families stay connected,” said Dennis Mathew, Senior Vice President of Comcast’s Western New England Region, which includes Vermont. “We are continuing to deliver the network speeds and capacity our Vermont customers need while they’re working, learning and connecting from home, as well as help more residents gain access to broadband through initiatives like this and our Comcast Internet Essentials program. We appreciate the work Attorney General T.J. Donovan and his team do to make sure Vermonters get the resources they need, especially during this extraordinary time.”

The Chromebooks were delivered on Monday, May 4, 2020.

###

From: [Jandl, Lauren](#)
To: [Sutich, John](#)
Cc: [Clark, Charity](#); [Walden, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: RE: email
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 4:45:00 PM
Attachments: [Chromebooks Press Release 5.5.20.pdf](#)

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To: [Jandl, Lauren](#)
Cc: [Clark, Charity](#); [Walden, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: RE: email
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 3:01:36 PM
Attachments: [Chromebooks Press Release - Comcast quote included.docx](#)

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Cell: 802-595-8679
Desk: 802-828-3173
Email: lauren.jandl@vermont.gov

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Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:05 PM
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Subject: [EXTERNAL] email

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Thanks again,

TJD

From: [Sutich, John](#)
To: [Jandl, Lauren](#)
Cc: [Clark, Charity](#); [Donovan, Thomas](#); [Walden, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: RE: email
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 2:23:44 PM

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

Lauren –

Thank you. We share the goal of that timeline. We are just working through our bureaucracy to get my quote approved, which (crossed fingers) should be no more than a couple of hours.

For comms coordination, I am copying my PR colleague Elizabeth Walden. She will be Comcast's press contact for anyone who may need further Comcast info.

John

From: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 2:10 PM
To: Sutich, John <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>; Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: email

Thanks, John. We are hoping to issue the press release this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

Attached is the latest version of the press release (which now includes a quote from Superintendent Knisley.) Please feel free to email your quote to me directly.

Best,

Lauren

From: Sutich, John <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:34 PM
To: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>
Cc: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>; Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: email

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

Lauren –

I'll have more of a sense of this timing by the end of the day. It would be tomorrow or Wednesday at the earliest.

John

From: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Sutich, John [REDACTED] >
Cc: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>; Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: email

Hello John,

A draft press release is attached.

For timing purposes, we're told that Comcast may be making an announcement with the Governor this week. Do you know when that will occur?

Best,

Lauren

Lauren Jandl
Assistant Director of Communications

Vermont Attorney General's Office
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
Cell: 802-595-8679
Desk: 802-828-3173
Email: lauren.jandl@vermont.gov

From: Sutich, John [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:05 PM
To: Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>
Cc: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>; Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: email

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Thanks, General.

Charity and Lauren, do you have a draft release that you can share?

John

From: Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:03 PM

To: Sutich, John <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>; Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] email

John,

Connecting you with Lauren.

Thanks again,

TJD

**STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT 05609-1001**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 1, 2020

CONTACT: Charity R. Clark
802-828-3171

**ATTORNEY GENERAL DONOVAN PARTNERS WITH COMCAST TO ADDRESS
SHORTAGE OF LAPTOPS IN TIME OF REMOTE LEARNING**

250 Chromebooks Delivered to Orange-East Supervisory Union Students

MONTPELIER – Attorney General T.J. Donovan today announced that he secured from Comcast a donation of 250 Chromebooks that were donated to a Vermont school district in need. As Vermont school children have shifted to remote learning, some pupils in the Orange-East Supervisory Union (OESU) did not have reliable access to tablets or computers. OESU consists of schools servicing Bradford, Newbury, Corinth, Groton, Ryegate, Thetford, Topsham, and Wells River. Students who are slotted to receive these Chromebooks attend Blue Mountain Union School, Newbury Elementary School, River Bend Career and Technical Center, and Waits River Valley School.

“I want to thank Comcast for making this investment in our future,” Attorney General Donovan said. “This is a challenging time for students, teachers, and parents. I know these Chromebooks will make all the difference to those who receive them.”

“Ensuring students have access to the resources to support their learning is critical during this time of Continuity of Learning,” said Secretary of Education Dan French. “I am grateful to Comcast for their generosity, and to the Attorney General for working to organize this donation to Orange East.”

“The 250 Chromebooks will connect many students previously unable to access on-line remote learning,” said Superintendent Emilie Knisley. “We did not have the funds in our local budgets available to bridge this divide in connectivity. We appreciate the support of Attorney General Donovan, Secretary French, and Comcast in making this possible for the students of Orange-East Supervisory Union. This is a big step forward in breaking down the digital divide between students and technology.”

“[Quote from **John Sutich**, Comcast’s Vice President of State Government Affairs]”

The Chromebooks were delivered on [**DATE**].

#

From: [Jandl, Lauren](#)
To: [Sutich, John](#)
Cc: [Clark, Charity](#); [Donovan, Thomas](#)
Subject: RE: email
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 2:10:00 PM
Attachments: [Chromebooks Press Release.docx](#)

Thanks, John. We are hoping to issue the press release this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

Attached is the latest version of the press release (which now includes a quote from Superintendent Knisley.) Please feel free to email your quote to me directly.

Best,

Lauren

From: Sutich, John <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:34 PM
To: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>
Cc: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>; Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: email

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John

From: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Sutich, John <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>; Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: email

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Lauren

Lauren Jandl
Assistant Director of Communications

Vermont Attorney General's Office
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
Cell: 802-595-8679
Desk: 802-828-3173
Email: lauren.jandl@vermont.gov

From: Sutich, John <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:05 PM
To: Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>
Cc: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>; Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: email

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John

From: Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:03 PM
To: Sutich, John <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>; Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] email

John,
Connecting you with Lauren.
Thanks again,
TJD

**STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT 05609-1001**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 1, 2020

CONTACT: Charity R. Clark
802-828-3171

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“Ensuring students have access to the resources to support their learning is critical during this time of Continuity of Learning,” said Secretary of Education Dan French. “I am grateful to Comcast for their generosity, and to the Attorney General for working to organize this donation to Orange East.”

“[Quote from Superintendent **Emilie Knisley**]”

“[Quote from **John Sutich**, Comcast, Vice President, State Government Affairs]”

The Chromebooks were delivered on [DATE].

###

From: [Jandl, Lauren](#)
To: [Sutich, John](#)
Cc: [Clark, Charity](#); [Donovan, Thomas](#)
Subject: RE: email
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:26:00 PM
Attachments: [Chromebooks Press Release.docx](#)

Hello John,

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Best,

Lauren

Lauren Jandl
Assistant Director of Communications

Vermont Attorney General's Office
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
Cell: 802-595-8679
Desk: 802-828-3173
Email: lauren.jandl@vermont.gov

From: Sutich, John <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:05 PM
To: Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>
Cc: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>; Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: email

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

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John

From: Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:03 PM
To: Sutich, John <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Jandl, Lauren <Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov>; Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] email

John,

Connecting you with Lauren.

Thanks again,

TJD