

3 Minute Public Comment,

June 5, 2023

On April 26, Cory Vaillancourt wrote an article for the smoky mountain news tabloid “It’s an ‘honor system’ — public records statute has troubling gap”, bashing Commissioner Terry Ramey.

Cory Vaillancourt used confidential information provided to him by Joey Webb, Jr. gathered from Terry Ramey’s personal cell phone, under the supervision of both Bryant Morehead and Frank Queen.

Cory Vaillancourt received this information from Joey Webb, Jr., the custodian of Terry Ramey’s confidential cell phone information, when he had earlier made a Request for Public Information, which was logged on Joey Webb Jr’s new information request software - NextRequest - as items #23-4 and #23-6.

On May 12, I sent a Request for Public Information to Joey Webb, Jr., where I stated:

“It has come to my attention that Cory Vaillancourt, smn tabloid, has been sent information from Terry Ramey's private cell phone records by you, to Cory Vaillancourt of the smn tabloid, in which he then published private personal information relating to Terry Ramey's private cell phone conversations.

It is also my understanding that you, Mr. Webb, have sent more than one set of data/records/information to Cory Vaillancourt of information obtained by you from Terry Ramey's cell phone.

Please send me the exact, **and I mean the exact**, copy(s) of the information that you sent to Cory Vaillancourt, which includes every time you sent Cory Vaillancourt information.”

It has been 24 days since I sent my Request for Public Information to Joey Webb, Jr., and I have not received anything from Joey Webb, Jr. My NextRequest number, #23-18, is still open.

§ 132-6 (d) says: ... the agency shall disclose as soon as practicable, and within 25 business days, public records requested for the announced project that are not otherwise made confidential by law.

This information is not confidential, as Joey Webb, Jr., turned it over to Cory Vaillancourt in the first place.

Please have the county manager, Bryant Morehead, prevail upon Joey Webb Jr. to provide the Public Records that I have requested. All Joey Webb Jr. has to do is punch a couple of keys on his keyboard, because all he has to do is redirect the information he sent to Cory Vaillancourt to me.

If Bryant Morehead can’t convince Joey Webb, Jr., to do his job, I request that you county commissioners prevail upon Bryant Morehead to do his job.

If commissioners cannot prevail upon Bryant Morehead to get Joey Webb, Jr., to provide the requested information, I will request that the State Chief Information Officer, James Weaver, to mediate this dispute.

I appreciate your allowing time for me to express my concerns. Thank you.

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.  
Haywood County Taxpayer