

December 21, 2023

The Honorable Ken Paxton
Attorney General of Texas
Open Records Division
P.O. Box 12548 – Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711-2548

RE: my PIA Request no. 1070-11-2023

Dear AG,

Please see the attached, in which TDCJ claims exemption of information of great public interest and accountability. There is nothing specific that would threaten the security of TDCJ or any person, prisoner or employee. In fact, as seen, they *have* released some already to the press.

See also the attached letter I sent to 105 stakeholders in September, exposing in that 16 Killings Letters some incompetence, which is the real reason for hiding the info asked.

They released to the public, as you can see, the NUMBERS of killings and very specific kinds of contraband found—what is the rest of the story? I am also a writer for the *Tyler County Booster* newspaper. These numbers and those numbers relative to specific prison units are public information—*period*—and the reports they made, IF ANY.

If you choose to redact, TDCJ can give the number of system-wide reports, if any.

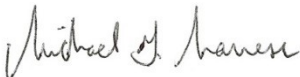
As you can see in the 16 Killings Letter, that is a question I asked *then*, whether TDCJ just found contraband tossed in the dayrooms when the lockdown started, or FOUND in a cell and wrote a disciplinary. That is a critical question to operations, my guess—which I hope I am wrong—leads to less actual contraband “found upon a search” and more. My guess is that TDCJ did NOT write many disciplinaries, or very few, but *implied* to the press in a manner that made their searches more diligent than they likely were, *sound* like they *found* a lot that was essentially trashed by the prisoners themselves—i.e., that TDCJ did more *work* than they actually did.

Obviously, a key element is which prisons had vastly MORE than others—a public interest.

Also very important are the *reports*, or the *lack* of them. You know the public has a vested tax-paying interest in precisely what the public is paying for during these lockdown. TDCJ is not the personal fiefdom of the directors or wardens but owned by Texas citizens, like me!

Because I am not on the inside anymore—given the documented nefariousness in my massive *When Texas Prison Scams Religion*—there is likely a more specific way of asking for the statistics they want so badly to keep secret under the color of law, stats they *never* publish, or submit to *real* analysis. Yet my request is clear enough for the *numbers* in total and *numbers* per specific prison, as well as any “reports” they did or the exposure of **no real report**.

Sincerely yours,



Michael G. Maness
804 N. Beech
Woodville, TX 75979
409-383-4671

Attached: my emails to TDCJ, TDCJ’s emails to me, my 16 Killings Letter sent in September.



Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Bryan Collier
Executive Director

December 20, 2023

The Honorable Ken Paxton
Attorney General of Texas
Open Records Division
P.O. Box 12548 – Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

RE: PIA Request Submitted by Michael Maness - PIA No. 1070-11-2023

Dear Attorney General:

On November 24, 2023, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) received a Public Information Act (PIA) request from Michael Maness. A copy of the request is attached. This letter also serves as notice to Michael Maness that we are seeking a ruling from your office as to whether the information can be withheld from public disclosure.

After seeking clarification from Michael Maness, the TDCJ received a response on December 6, 2023, changing the deadline for this Request for Decision to December 20, 2023. A copy of the response from the requestor is also included with *Attachment A*.

The responsive records contain information that is excepted from disclosure under the PIA, and the TDCJ invokes all the exceptions provided by chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code. The TDCJ will provide written comments and the responsive information no later than the 15th business day from the date the request was received.

The TDCJ placed this request for decision through the PIA Electronic Filing system on December 20, 2023.

Please contact this office at 936-437-6700 or via email at ogcopenrecords@tdcj.texas.gov if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Guerrero".

Michael Guerrero
Assistant General Counsel

Our mission is to provide public safety, promote positive change in offender behavior, reintegrate offenders into society, and assist victims of crime.

Office of the General Counsel

Kristen Worman, General Counsel – Kristen.Worman@tdcj.texas.gov

P.O. Box 13084 Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-3084
Phone (512) 463-9899, FAX (512) 936-2159

P.O. Box 4004
Huntsville, Texas 77342-4004
Phone (936) 437-6700, FAX (936) 437-6994

www.tdcj.texas.gov

The Honorable Ken Paxton
M. Maness – Clarification – December 6, 2023
December 20, 2023
Page 2

cc: Michael Maness
maness3@att.net

MKG/mcw
Attachment

From: Michael Maness <maness3@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 23, 2023 8:48 PM
To: PIA <PIA@tdcj.texas.gov>
Cc: Michael Maness <maness3@att.net>
Subject: OR Lockdown Report

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November 24, 2023

I would like a copy of the report/s from the systemwide lockdown that included all the contraband picked up, as the news reported so many shanks and stuff, drugs, etc.

That is, I would also like any official report at the end that showed which prisons had which contraband.

I would like to know the number of disciplinaries given to prisoners for contraband.

And report to the executive directors, TBCJ, or division directors from the systemwide lockdown, analyses, or whatever.

Per policy, I would prefer PDF and Excel and computer docs, as that saves printing and is permitted under Texas Open Records law.

Plus, please give the prisons in which the 16 deaths occurred, and the number deaths since the lockdown began and their prisons.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Maness
804 N. Beech
Woodville, TX 75979
409-383-4671
Maness3@att.net

ATTACHMENT

A

From: Michael Maness <maness3@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:25 PM
To: OGC Open Records <ogcopenrecords@tdcj.texas.gov>
Cc: Michael Maness <maness3@att.net>
Subject: Re: PIR - Michael Maness - PIA No. 1070-11-2023

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12-6-23

Dear OGC,

The most recent lockdown that made the news on Sept 6, 2023, for the 16 homicides so far for 2023, as in this the news report from [TDCJ imposes lockdown amid inmate homicides, illegal contraband](#).



illegal contraband

16 homicides in TDCJ facilities so far this year

And the number of inmate disciplinaries for **that** systemwide lockdown.
Voluminous?--There was no systemwide report of cumulative various contraband by unit?
Surely the "reports" are PDFs, which makes for easy release.
I believe I stipulated the most recent, but certainly could be wrong.
For that systemwide lockdown.
You seem to imply there were others.
Were there other systemwide lockdowns AFTER that one?
Thanks.
Sincerely,

Michael G. Maness
409-383-4671
Maness3@att.net

December 30, 2024

The Honorable Ken Paxton
Attorney General of Texas
Open Records Division
P.O. Box 12548 – Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711-2548

RE: my PIA No. 1075-11-2023

Dear AG,

Please see the attached, in which TDCJ claims exemption of information of great public interest and accountability. What is unusual about this TDCJ appeal is that I have received such information many times in the past, usually just PDFs of info on chaplaincy.

“Policy” revisions are not excepted, by any stretch. Nor are any general reports or statistics of any nature. Sometimes, a religious volunteer would consume a block with handouts marketing their services, like the Heart of Texas Foundation foolishness that is especially interested in keeping their work secret.

I spent 20 years as a TDCJ chaplain, and there has never been anything at those quarterly or regional meetings that has been confidential—ever!

Be interested in their reasons. Nothing personal about an employee or prisoner was asked for, just what was presented to chaplains, and freedom for them to redact any personal information. The facts, stats, staff names, and free-world orgs presenting are public information and of great public interest, especially to researchers seeking accountability.

Sincerely yours,



Michael G. Maness
804 N. Beech
Woodville, TX 75979
409-383-4671

Attached: my emails to TDCJ, TDCJ's emails to me, my 16 Killings Letter sent in September.



Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Bryan Collier
Executive Director

December 29, 2023

The Honorable Ken Paxton
Open Records Division
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711-2548

RE: PIA Request Submitted by Michael Maness – PIA No. 1075-11-2023

Dear Attorney General Paxton:

On November 24, 2023, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) received a Public Information Act (PIA) request from Michael Maness. A copy of the request is attached. This letter also serves as notice to Michael Maness that we are seeking a ruling from your office as to whether the information can be withheld from public disclosure.

After seeking clarification from Michael Maness, the TDCJ received a response on December 12, 2023, changing the deadline for this Request for Decision to December 29, 2023. A copy of the response from the requestor is also included with *Attachment A*.

The responsive records contain information that is excepted from disclosure under the PIA, and the TDCJ invokes all the exceptions provided by chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code. The TDCJ will provide written comments and the responsive information no later than the 15th business day from the date the request was received.

The TDCJ placed this request for decision through the PIA Electronic Filing system on December 29, 2023.

Please contact this office at 936-437-6700 or via email at ogcopenrecords@tdcj.texas.gov if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Guerrero".

Michael Guerrero
Assistant General Counsel

cc: Michael Maness
maness3@att.net

MKG/kls
Attachment

Our mission is to provide public safety, promote positive change in offender behavior, reintegrate offenders into society, and assist victims of crime.

Office of the General Counsel

Kristen Worman, General Counsel – Kristen.Worman@tdcj.texas.gov

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P.O. Box 4004
Huntsville, Texas 77342-4004
Phone (936) 437-6700, FAX (936) 437-6994

www.tdcj.texas.gov

From: Michael Maness <maness3@att.net>
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 8:10 PM
To: PIA <PIA@tdcj.texas.gov>
Cc: Michael Maness <maness3@att.net>
Subject: Chaplaincy Conferences/Meeting Material

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November 24, 2023

Dear OR coordinator:

1. I would like a copy of the all the material given at the last two programs division meetings for chaplains (if regional were the only two last ones, then those two and the most recent of full annual meeting, whenever that was held), excluding personal data, as in outline of lessons, lectures, manual updates, etc.--all the material in PDFs and Word docs that can be sent by email.

I do not need duplicates from one region to the next, just a good faith send of the PDFs of what was handed out at the last two regional meetings, and last annual.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Maness
804 N. Beech
Woodville, TX 75979
409-383-4671
Maness3@att.net

From: Michael Maness <maness3@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 10:55 AM
To: OGC Open Records <ogcopenrecords@tdcj.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: PIR - Michael Maness - PIA No. 1075-11-2023

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If you believe this to be a malicious and/or phishing email, please contact the Information Security Office (ISO).

Just the meetings for the chaplaincy, please.

Michael G. Maness
409-383-4671
Maness3@att.net