



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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26-ORD-201

May 11, 2026

In re: Melanie Barker/Cabinet for Economic Development

Summary: The Cabinet for Economic Development (“the Cabinet”) did not violate the Open Records Act (“the Act”) when it granted the Appellant’s request.

Open Records Decision

On April 2, 2026, Melanie Barker (“Appellant”) submitted a request to the Cabinet for “the record (DOA-28A REV 03/2023) for [t]his Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear – Out of Country Trip to Davos (Switzerland) in 2026.”¹ In a timely response, the Cabinet provided eight pages² of records but stated that it was withholding 92 pages of potentially responsive records pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(a). This appeal followed.

On appeal, the Appellant challenges the Cabinet’s withholding of the 92 pages of records. For its part, the Cabinet now explains that those additional records are not responsive to the Appellant’s request and, therefore, need not be provided. The Office agrees.

The Act requires that upon receiving a request, an agency must grant or deny the request within five business days. *See* KRS 61.880(1). The Appellant requested a single discrete record: a “Request for Authorization of Out-of-Country Travel” form. The Cabinet complied with the Act by timely granting the request. It was not required to provide additional, unresponsive records. Accordingly, the Cabinet did not violate the Act.³

¹ The Appellant also refers to the requested records as a “Request for Authorization of Out of Country Travel document’ (Form DOA-28A).”

² Portions of these records were redacted under KRS 61.878(1)(a). The Appellant has not challenged those redactions.

³ Because the additional 92 pages of records were not responsive to the Appellant’s request, the Office need not determine whether the Cabinet properly withheld those records under KRS 61.878(1)(a). However, the Office notes the Act requires that, when a record “contains material

A party aggrieved by this decision may appeal it by initiating an action in the appropriate circuit court pursuant to KRS 61.880(5) and KRS 61.882 within 30 days from the date of this decision. Pursuant to KRS 61.880(3), the Attorney General shall be notified of any action in circuit court but shall not be named as a party in that action or in any subsequent proceedings. The Attorney General will accept notice of the complaint emailed to OAGAppeals@ky.gov.

Russell Coleman

Attorney General

/s/ Zachary M. Zimmerer

Zachary M. Zimmerer

Assistant Attorney General

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Distributed to:

Melanie Barker, Appellant

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which is not excepted under this section, the public agency shall separate the excepted and make the nonexcepted material available for examination.” KRS 61.878(4).