



Katie Shepherd &lt;kshepherd@wwweek.com&gt;

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## Records Request

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**UNDERHILL Rod** <Rod.UNDERHILL@mcdca.us>

Tue, Aug 28, 2018 at 9:39 AM

To: Katie Shepherd &lt;kshepherd@wwweek.com&gt;

Cc: WEISBERG Brent &lt;Brent.WEISBERG@mcdca.us&gt;, GIBBS Adam &lt;Adam.GIBBS@mcdca.us&gt;

Below is what I communicated to the office last week.

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### ODAA CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Last week, I and many of our colleagues attended the Oregon District Attorney's Association Summer Conference in Bend, Oregon. There were several opportunities for us to showcase the leadership and exemplary work of our office. The main conference on Thursday opened with a plenary session conducted by the outgoing District Attorney of St. Louis County, Missouri, Robert McCulloch. It was during his presentation that, unfortunately, we learned not everyone in our line of work seems to share our commitment to equity, diversity and dignity. I found Mr. McCulloch's remarks to be offensive and unprofessional. Having spoken with all of the members of our office who were present, I know that every MCDA attendee agrees. Mr. McCulloch was the scheduled keynote speaker at the conference dinner that evening. I chose not to attend the conference dinner, and I am proud to say every member of the Multnomah County DA's Office who attended the conference also declined to attend the dinner and chose, by their actions, like me, to repudiate the offensive message to which we had been subjected to earlier that day.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office is fully committed to equity, diversity, fairness, dignity and opportunity. This office provides outstanding service to the many different people and populations within Multnomah County in a manner that is culturally and linguistically competent and trauma-informed. It is the policy of the District Attorney that all staff and attorneys maintain the highest ethical and professional standards, which includes acting with full awareness of the ways in which the justice system impacts different people and populations. In 2013, we founded an internal employee workgroup named the Equity, Dignity and Opportunity Council (EDOC). This group of 12 office members – six lawyers and six non-lawyers — meets weekly to advance the critically important equity based conversation within the office, plan and sponsor equity and fairness related trainings for the office, consider workplace initiatives for review, discussion and solution and help facilitate training for all of us as we do our work in the community. I am proud of

the work that we do here at MCDA to promote a fair and just public safety system. Thank you for your continued support in this critically important social and professional area.

**From:** Katie Shepherd [mailto:[kshepherd@wweek.com](mailto:kshepherd@wweek.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 28, 2018 9:32 AM  
**To:** UNDERHILL Rod <[Rod.UNDERHILL@mcds.us](mailto:Rod.UNDERHILL@mcds.us)>  
**Cc:** WEISBERG Brent <[Brent.WEISBERG@mcds.us](mailto:Brent.WEISBERG@mcds.us)>  
**Subject:** Records Request

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