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'Drag This Out as Long as Possible': Former Official Faces Rare Criminal Charges Under Open-Records Law

ATLANTA — When he was mayor of Atlanta, Kasim Reed's relationship with the news media was notoriously contentious.

He was the kind of politician who punched back when he felt punched. He was well known for blocking reporters on Twitter, and his office regularly criticized journalists by name and issued news releases that vigorously pushed back against negative coverage.

Once, at a February 2017 news conference, Mr. Reed responded to reporters' requests for records by simultaneously releasing more than 1.4 million pages of documents on paper, stuffed into more than 400 boxes, some of them filled with blank sheets and minuscule spreadsheet printouts — a gesture interpreted by many in the local press corps as a dramatic act of nose-thumbing.

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The New York Times

By Richard Fausset

July 8, 2019

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