



August 1, 2024

VIA FOIA Public Access Link (PAL)

Janeen Tyler
United States Park Police
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

Freedom of Information Act Request: Communications Relating to Pro-Hamas Criminal Activity Outside Union Station

Dear Ms. Tyler:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act requests on issues of pressing public concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's X page has over 251,000 followers and the X page of our Founder and President has over 682,000 followers.

I. Records Request

On July 24, 2024, thousands of pro-Hamas demonstrators took to the streets in our nation's Capital to demonstrate their support for terrorists.¹ Many protestors were captured on camera committing Federal crimes by defacing monuments and assaulting law enforcement officers.² Chairman Kenneth Spencer, Chairman of the United States Park Police Fraternal Order of Police issued a statement declaring that his force had "only 29 officers on the ground" who succeeded in arresting 10

¹ Peter Hermann et al., *Charges Dropped Against 11 Anti-Netanyahu Protesters Arrested in D.C.* WASH. POST (July 26, 2024), <https://wapo.st/46u0eWR>.

² See, e.g., 16 U.S.C. § 426i; 18 U.S.C. § 111.

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individuals “while being assaulted by a mob of thousands.”³ Under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a), AFL requests the following records:

- A. All records and communications mentioning “Palestinian,” “Palestine,” “Jewish Voice for Peace,” “JVP,” “ANSWER Coalition,” “Palestinian Youth Movement,” “PYM,” “People’s Forum,” “Party for Socialism and Liberation,” “PSL,” “International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network,” “IJAN,” “Neturei Karta,” “Let Gaza Live,” “Union Station,” or “Columbus Circle.”
- B. All records or communications relating to preparation, staffing, and resourcing in anticipation of the protests mentioned in Chairman Kenneth Spencer’s statement.⁴
- C. All records or communications with the Department of Interior or the National Park Service requesting additional preparation, staffing, and resourcing in anticipation of the protests mentioned in Chairman Kenneth Spencer’s statement.⁵

The time period for this request is from July 22, 2024, to July 24, 2024.

II. Custodians

- A. Office of the Chief
- B. WASO LE Liaison

III. Fee Waiver

AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and 43 C.F.R. § 2.45. First, AFL is a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester. Our officials routinely appear on national television and use social media platforms to disseminate the information it has obtained about federal government activities. In this case, AFL will make your records and your responses publicly available for the benefit of citizens, scholars, and others, and the public’s understanding of your policies and practices will be enhanced through AFL’s analysis and publication of the requested records. As a nonprofit organization, AFL does not have a commercial purpose, and releasing the requested information is not in AFL’s financial interest. We note that numerous Federal agencies have granted us fee waivers in the past.

³ *PRESS RELEASE: Statement of Kenneth Spencer, Chairman US Park Police Fraternal Order of Police Regarding Columbus Circle Protests*, US PARK POLICE FRATERNAL ORD. OF POLICE (July 25, 2024), <https://bit.ly/4bUsCmp>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

IV. Expedited Processing

DOI regulations require the grant of expedited processing for a FOIA request if the requester can demonstrate a “compelling need for the records,” including “(1) [f]ailure to expedite the request could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual,” and “(2) an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged Federal Government activity and the request is made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information.” 43 C.F.R. § 2.20(a)(1) and (2).

This request patently qualifies for expedited processing under § 2.20(a)(1) and (2). These demonstrations continue to destroy our great country and monuments to our collective achievements and, filled with support for terrorism and violent criminal acts, they endanger those tasked with protecting these irreplaceable monuments. The public needs immediate assurance that the federal government is adequately preparing, staffing, and resourcing these law enforcement officers. As discussed above, America First Legal is a qualifying news media distributor and has been recognized as such by other Federal agencies.

V. Conclusion

If you have any questions about how to construe this request for records or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, please do not hesitate to contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. Finally, if AFL’s request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

Sincerely,

/s/ Reed Rubinstein

America First Legal Foundation