



September 16, 2024

Via Online Request Form

Douglas Hibbard
Chief, Initial Request Staff
Office of Information Policy
Department of Justice
6th Floor
441 G St, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Freedom of Information Act Request: Ryan Wesley Routh

Dear FOIA Officer:

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 271,000 followers and the X page of our Founder and President has over 729,000 followers.

I. Records Request

On Sunday, September 15, 2024, former President Donald J. Trump faced yet another apparent "attempted assassination,"¹ this time, while he was golfing at the Trump

¹ Press Release, FBI Statement on Incident in West Palm Beach, Florida (Sept. 15, 2024), <https://perma.cc/K73Z-WG6W> ("The FBI has responded to West Palm Beach, Florida, and is investigating what appears to be an attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump.").

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International Golf Course in West Palm Beach.² Reportedly, his Secret Service detail spotted Ryan Wesley Routh pointing a high-powered rifle from approximately 300 to 500 yards away.³ Routh had a decades-long criminal history, publicly offered to facilitate deploying foreign fighters to Ukraine, and vocally criticized President Trump online—even immediately after the first assassination attempt.⁴ Because it is unclear to what extent Federal authorities had previously identified Routh as a potential threat to President Trump, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552, we request all records regarding **Ryan Wesley Routh**. The relevant time period for this request is from January 21, 2021, to the present.

II. Custodians

Office of the Attorney General

- A. Merrick B. Garland, Attorney General
- B. Matt Klapper, Chief of Staff

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

- C. Lisa Monaco, Deputy Attorney General

National Security Division

- D. Matthew G. Olsen, Assistant Attorney General
- E. David Newman, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
- F. Eun Young Choi, Deputy Assistant Attorney General
- G. Melissa MacTough, Deputy Assistant Attorney General
- H. George Toscas, Deputy Assistant Attorney General
- I. Brad Wiegmann, Deputy Assistant Attorney General
- J. Brett Freedman, Chief of Staff and Senior Counsel

² Kerry Breen & Anna Schechter, *What's Known About Ryan Wesley Routh, Suspect in Possible Trump Assassination Attempt on Florida Golf Course*, CBS NEWS (Sept. 16, 2024), <https://perma.cc/5NB3-UAAT>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*; see also Curt Devine et al., *Man Detained in Apparent Assassination Attempt on Trump Criticized Former President on Social Media*, CNN (Sept. 15, 2024), <https://perma.cc/U4HJ-B7PP>.

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 28 C.F.R. § 16.10. 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.

IV. Expedited Processing

Also, AFL requests expedited processing of this request. In support thereof, AFL certifies its compelling need for expedited processing under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E) and 28 C.F.R. §§ 16.5(e)(1)(ii) & (iv). This is a critical moment for our nation and the world. This request patently qualifies for expedited processing under §§ 16.5(e)(1)(ii) & (iv).

There is a *compelling need* for expedited processing under *both* criteria. Multiple attempts have been made to assassinate the former President of the United States and the frontrunner in the upcoming presidential election—one of which resulted in the death of an innocent bystander—and expedited treatment is necessary to ensure the safety of the former President and other innocent bystanders. Now, more than ever, the public deserves to know what the Department of State knew about this attempted assassin. As discussed above, America First Legal is a qualifying news media distributor, and has been recognized as such by many agencies. This manifest attack on our political process is of paramount and urgent interest to the media and all Americans.

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/ Will Scolinos

America First Legal Foundation



September 16, 2024

Via OSD/JS Public Access Link (PAL)

OSD/JS FOIA Requester Service Center
Office of Freedom of Information
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155

Freedom of Information Act Request: Ryan Wesley Routh

Dear FOIA Officer:

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 271,000 followers X, and the X page of our Founder and President has over 729,000 followers.

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II. Custodians

Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD)

1. Lloyd J. Austin III, Secretary of Defense
2. Derek Chollet, Chief of Staff
3. Kelly E. Magsamen, former Chief of Staff
4. Kathleen Hicks, Deputy Secretary of Defense
5. Christopher Maier, ASD for Special Operations & Low Intensity Conflict
6. Mary Beth Morgan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense Integration and Defense Support of Civil Authorities
7. Heather King, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense Integration and Defense Support of Civil Authorities

Joint Chiefs of Staff

1. Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., Chairman
2. Adm. Christopher W. Grady, Vice Chairman
3. Lt. Gen. Douglas A. Sims II, Director for the Joint Staff
4. Lt. Gen. Dimitri Henry, Director for Intelligence, J2
5. David Kostelancik, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Chairman

⁴ *Id.*; see also Curt Devine et al., *Man Detained in Apparent Assassination Attempt on Trump Criticized Former President on Social Media*, CNN (Sept. 15, 2024), <https://perma.cc/U4HJ-B7PP>.

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 32 C.F.R. § 286.12(l). 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 the Department of Defense has granted us fee waivers in the past.

IV. Expedited Processing

Department of Defense regulations require the grant of expedited processing for a FOIA request “when the requester demonstrates a compelling need for the information,” *i.e.*, when “(A) [t]he failure to obtain requested records on an expedited basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual, or (B) [t]he information is urgently needed by an individual primarily engaged in disseminating information in order to inform the public concerning an actual or alleged government activity.” 32 C.F.R. § 286.8(e).

There is a compelling need for expedited processing under *both* criteria. Multiple attempts have been made to assassinate the former President of the United States and the frontrunner in the upcoming presidential election—one of which resulted in the death of an innocent bystander—and expedited treatment is necessary to ensure the safety of the former President and other innocent bystanders. Now, more than ever, the public deserves to know what the Department of Defense knew about this attempted assassin, who was reportedly facilitating the deployment of foreign fighters to an active war zone.⁵ As discussed above, America First Legal is a qualifying news media distributor, and has been recognized as such by many agencies. This manifest attack on our political process is of paramount and urgent interest to the media and all Americans.

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 more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, please do not hesitate to contact me at

⁵ See, e.g., Curt Devine et al., *Man Detained in Apparent Assassination Attempt on Trump Criticized Former President on Social Media*, CNN (Sept. 15, 2024), <https://perma.cc/U4HJ-B7PP>.

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/ Julia Z. Haller
America First Legal Foundation



September 16, 2024

Via Secure Release Portal

U.S. Customs & Border Protection
90 K Street, NE, 9th Floor, Mail Stop 1181
Washington, DC 20229-1181

Freedom of Information Act Request: Ryan Wesley Routh

Dear FOIA Officer:

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facilitate deploying foreign fighters to Ukraine, and vocally criticized President Trump online—even immediately after the first assassination attempt.⁴ Because it is unclear to what extent Federal authorities had previously identified Routh as a potential threat to President Trump, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552, we request all records regarding **Ryan Wesley Routh**. The relevant time period for this request is from January 21, 2021, to the present.

II. Custodians

- A. All custodians in the Office of the Commissioner at the GS-14 pay scale and above.
- B. All custodians in the Office of Deputy Commissioner at the GS-14 pay scale and above.
- C. All custodians in the Office of the Chief Operating Officer at the GS-14 pay scale and above.
- D. All custodians in the Office of International Affairs at the GS-14 pay scale and above.
- E. All custodians in the Office of Intelligence at the GS-14 pay scale and above.
- F. All custodians in the Office of Field Operations at the GS-14 pay scale and above.
- G. Tim Quinn, Executive Director, Intergovernmental Public 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 6 C.F.R. §5.11. 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 DHS has granted us fee waivers in the past.

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IV. Expedited Processing

DHS regulations require the grant of expedited processing for a FOIA request “whenever the component determines that they involve: (i) Circumstances in which the lack of expedited processing could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; (ii) An urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person who is primarily engaged in disseminating information; ... (iv) A matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government’s integrity which affect public confidence.” 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(1) (i), (ii), and (iii).

This is a critical moment for our nation and the world. This request patently qualifies for expedited processing under § 5.5(e)(1)(i), (ii), and (iv). There is a compelling need for expedited processing under each of these criteria. Multiple attempts have been made to assassinate the former President of the United States and the frontrunner in the upcoming presidential election—one of which resulted in the death of an innocent bystander—and expedited treatment is necessary to ensure the safety of the former President and other innocent bystanders. Now, more than ever, the public deserves to know what the Department of Homeland Security knew about this attempted assassin. As discussed above, America First Legal is a qualifying news media distributor, and has been recognized as such by many agencies. This manifest attack on our political process is of paramount and urgent interest to the media and all Americans.

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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/ Rachel L. Jag
America First Legal Foundation



September 16, 2024

Via FOIA.gov

Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Freedom of Information Act Request: Ryan Wesley Routh

Dear FOIA Officer:

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Trump online—even immediately after the first assassination attempt.⁴ Because it is unclear to what extent Federal authorities had previously identified Routh as a potential threat to President Trump, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552, we request all records regarding **Ryan Wesley Routh**. The relevant time period for this request is from January 21, 2021, to the present.

II. 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 32 C.F.R. §1900.13(b). 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 DHS has granted us fee waivers in the past.

III. Expedited Processing

CIA regulations require the grant of expedited processing for a FOIA request when “a *compelling need* is deemed to exist [*i.e.*]: (1) When the matter involves an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; or (2) When the request is made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information and the information is relevant to a subject of public urgency concerning an actual or alleged Federal Government activity.” 32 C.F.R. § 1900.34(a).

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Sincerely,

/s/ Michael Ding
America First Legal Foundation



September 16, 2024

Via Secure Release Portal

Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20528

Freedom of Information Act Request: Ryan Wesley Routh

Dear FOIA Officer:

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II. Custodians

DHS Headquarters (HQ)

- A. Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3)
- B. Privacy Office (PRIV)

Office of Intelligence & Analysis (I&A)

- C. Counterterrorism Center (CTC)
- D. Current and Emerging Threats Center (CETC)
- E. Office of Regional Intelligence (ORI)
- F. Homeland Identities, Targeting and Exploitation Center (HITEC)

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Sincerely,

/s/ Rachel L. Jag
America First Legal Foundation



September 16, 2024

Via email: ODNI_FOIA@odni.gov

Gregory Koch
Director, Information Management Office
ATTN: FOIA/PA
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Freedom of Information Act Request: Ryan Wesley Routh

Dear FOIA Officer:

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III. Expedited Processing

AFL certifies as true and correct under 32 C.F.R. § 1700.6(j) that there is a particular urgency to inform the public about the government activity involved in the request. Multiple attempts have been made to assassinate the former President of the United States and the frontrunner in the upcoming presidential election—one of which resulted in the death of an innocent bystander—and expedited treatment is necessary to ensure the safety of the former President and other innocent bystanders. Now, more than ever, the public deserves to know what ODNI knew about this attempted assassin, who was reportedly facilitating the deployment of foreign fighters to an active war zone.⁵ As discussed above, America First Legal is a qualifying news media distributor, and has been recognized as such by many agencies. This manifest attack on our political process is of paramount and urgent interest to the media and all Americans.

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Sincerely,

/s/ Michael Ding
America First Legal Foundation



September 16, 2024

Via FOIA Portal

Office of Information Programs and Services (A/GIS/IPS)
Room B-266
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Freedom of Information Act Request: Ryan Wesley Routh

Dear FOIA Officer:

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 (FOIA) 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 has over 271,000 followers on X, and our Founder and President has over 729,000 followers on X.

I. Records Request

On Sunday, September 15, 2024, former President Donald J. Trump faced yet another apparent “attempted assassination,”¹ this time, while he was golfing at the Trump International Golf Course in West Palm Beach.² Reportedly, his Secret Service detail spotted Ryan Wesley Routh pointing a high-powered rifle from approximately 300 to

¹ Press Release, FBI Statement on Incident in West Palm Beach, Florida (Sept. 15, 2024), <https://perma.cc/K73Z-WG6W> (“The FBI has responded to West Palm Beach, Florida, and is investigating what appears to be an attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump.”).

² Kerry Breen & Anna Schecter, *What’s Known About Ryan Wesley Routh, Suspect in Possible Trump Assassination Attempt on Florida Golf Course*, CBS NEWS (Sept. 16, 2024), <https://perma.cc/5NB3-UAAT>.

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500 yards away.³ Routh had a decades-long criminal history, publicly offered to facilitate deploying foreign fighters to Ukraine, and vocally criticized President Trump online—even immediately after the first assassination attempt.⁴ Because it is unclear to what extent Federal authorities had previously identified Routh as a potential threat to President Trump, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552, we request all records regarding **Ryan Wesley Routh**. The relevant time period for this request is from January 21, 2021, to the present.

II. Custodians

- A. All custodians in the Office of the Secretary of State at the GS-14 pay scale and above or equivalent.
- B. All custodians in the Office of the Deputy Secretary at the GS-14 pay scale and above or equivalent.
- C. All custodians in the Office of Arms Control and International Security at the GS-14 pay scale and above or equivalent.
- D. All custodians in the Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights at the GS-14 pay scale and above or equivalent.
- E. All custodians in the Office of Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment at the GS-14 pay scale and above or equivalent.
- F. All custodians in the Office of Management at the GS-14 pay scale and above or equivalent.
- G. All custodians in the Office of Political Affairs at the GS-14 pay scale and above or equivalent.
- H. All custodians in the Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs at the GS-14 pay scale and above or equivalent.
- I. All custodians in the Office of the Under Secretary for Political Affairs at the GS-14 pay scale and above or equivalent.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*; see also Curt Devine et al., *Man Detained in Apparent Assassination Attempt on Trump Criticized Former President on Social Media*, CNN (Sept. 15, 2024), <https://perma.cc/U4HJ-B7PP>.

- J. All custodians in the Office of the Intelligence and Resources at the GS-14 pay scale and above or equivalent.
- K. All custodians in the Office of the Office of the Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security at the GS-14 pay scale and above or equivalent.
- L. All custodians in the Bureau of Diplomatic Security at the GS-14 pay scale and above or equivalent.
- M. All custodians in the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine at the GS-14 pay scale and above or equivalent.

III. Fee Waiver Request

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(4)(A)(iii), AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request. Furthermore, AFL has a demonstrated ability and intention to effectively convey the information broadly to the public. AFL's status as a representative of the news media has been recognized by other agencies for granting fee waivers by the Departments of Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Justice, Interior, and Homeland Security. Finally, as a non-profit organization, AFL has no commercial interest, and the request is made entirely to serve the public interest. We are, of course, available to provide additional information in writing or offline in support of this request. If AFL's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

IV. Request for Expedited Processing

AFL hereby requests expedited processing pursuant to 22 C.F.R. § 171.12(d)(1)(i),(ii) and (iv). "Failure to obtain requested records on an expedited basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of [the former President of the United States and leading presidential candidate]." § 171.12(d)(1)(i). Furthermore, AFL is a requester "primarily engaged in disseminating information," and "there exists an urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity." § 171.12(d)(1)(ii). Lastly, this most recent assassination attempt is "[a] matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity that affect public confidence." § 171.12(d)(1)(iv).

There is a *compelling need* for expedited processing under *each* of these criteria. Multiple attempts have been made to assassinate the former President of the United States and the frontrunner in the upcoming presidential election—one of which resulted in the death of an innocent bystander—and expedited treatment is necessary

to ensure the safety of the former President and other innocent bystanders. Now, more than ever, the public deserves to know what the Department of State knew about this attempted assassin. As discussed above, America First Legal is a qualifying news media distributor, and has been recognized as such by many agencies. This manifest attack on our political process is of paramount and urgent interest to the media and all Americans.

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/ Will Scolinos
America First Legal Foundation



September 16, 2024

Via Secure Release Portal

Department of Homeland Security
Transportation Security Administration
6595 Springfield Center Drive
Springfield, VA 20598 – 6020

Freedom of Information Act Request: Ryan Wesley Routh

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I. Records Request

On Sunday, September 15, 2024, former President Donald J. Trump faced yet another apparent "attempted assassination,"¹ this time, while he was golfing at the Trump International Golf Course in West Palm Beach.² Reportedly, his Secret Service detail spotted Ryan Wesley Routh pointing a high-powered rifle from approximately 300 to

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500 yards away.³ Routh had a decades-long criminal history, publicly offered to facilitate deploying foreign fighters to Ukraine, and vocally criticized President Trump online—even immediately after the first assassination attempt.⁴ Because it is unclear to what extent Federal authorities had previously identified Routh as a potential threat to President Trump, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552, we request all records regarding **Ryan Wesley Routh**. The relevant time period for this request is from January 21, 2021, to the present.

II. Custodians

Responsive records may be found in the following offices within the Transportation Security Administration:

- A. All custodians in the Office of the Administrator at the GS-14 pay scale and above.
- B. All custodians in the Office of Enrollment Services and Vetting Programs (ESVP) at the GS-14 pay scale and above.
- C. All custodians in the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) at the GS-14 pay scale and above.
- D. All custodians in the Office of Inspection at the GS-14 pay scale and above.
- E. All custodians in the Office of International Operations at the GS-14 pay scale and above.
- F. All custodians in the Office of the Law Enforcement/Federal Air Marshal Service (LE/FAMS) at the GS-14 pay scale and above.

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 6 C.F.R. § 5.11. 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

³ *Id.*

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releasing the requested information is not in AFL's financial interest. We note that DHS has granted us fee waivers in the past.

IV. Expedited Processing

DHS regulations require the grant of expedited processing for a FOIA request “whenever the component determines that they involve: (i) Circumstances in which the lack of expedited processing could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; (ii) An urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person who is primarily engaged in disseminating information; ... (iv) A matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity which affect public confidence. 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(1).

This is a critical moment for our nation and the world. This request patently qualifies for expedited processing under § 5.5(e)(1)(i), (ii), and (iv). Multiple attempts have been made to assassinate the former President of the United States and the frontrunner in the upcoming presidential election—one of which resulted in the death of an innocent bystander—and expedited treatment is necessary to ensure the safety of the former President and other innocent bystanders. Now, more than ever, the public deserves to know what TSA knew about this attempted assassin, who was reportedly facilitating the deployment of foreign fighters to an active war zone.⁵ As discussed above, America First Legal is a qualifying news media distributor, and has been recognized as such by many agencies. This manifest attack on our political process is of paramount and urgent interest to the media and all Americans.

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 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/ Julia Z. Haller

America First Legal Foundation

⁵ See, e.g., Curt Devine et al., *Man Detained in Apparent Assassination Attempt on Trump Criticized Former President on Social Media*, CNN (Sept. 15, 2024), <https://perma.cc/U4HJ-B7PP>.



September 16, 2024

Via FOIA Portal

Chief, Information and Records Division
Office of Administrative Services
U.S. Agency for International Development
Room 2.07c
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523

Freedom of Information Act Request: Ryan Wesley Routh

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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 (FOIA) 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 has over 271,000 followers on X, and our Founder and President has over 729,000 followers on X.

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II. Custodians

- A. All custodians in the Office of the Administrator at GS-14 pay scale and above.
- B. All custodians in the Office of the Deputy Administrator for Policy and Programming at GS-14 pay scale and above.
- C. All custodians in the Office of the Deputy Administrator for Management and Resources at GS-14 pay scale and above.
- D. Erin Elizabeth McKee serves as the Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia (E&E)
- E. Dr. Alexander Sokolowski, Deputy Assistant Administrator (DAA) in the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia
- F. Mark D. Simakovsky, Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia (E&E)
- G. Lisa Magno, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator (SDAA) in the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia

III. Fee Waiver Request

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IV. Request for Expedited Processing

AFL hereby requests expedited processing pursuant to 22 C.F.R. § 212.8(e)(1)(i), (ii), (iv). "Failure to obtain requested records on an expedited basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of [the former President of the United States and leading presidential candidate]." 22 C.F.R. § 212.8(e)(1)(i). Furthermore, there is an "urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged Federal Government activity, if made by a person who is primarily engaged in disseminating information," which AFL is. § 212.8(e)(1)(ii). Lastly, this is a "matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity that affect public confidence." § 212.8(e)(1)(iii).

Multiple attempts have been made to assassinate the former President of the United States and the frontrunner in the upcoming presidential election—one of which resulted in the death of an innocent bystander—and expedited treatment is necessary to ensure the safety of the former President and other innocent bystanders. Now, more than ever, the public deserves to know what USAID knew about this attempted assassin. As discussed above, America First Legal is a qualifying news media distributor, and has been recognized as such by many agencies. This manifest attack on our political process is of paramount and urgent interest to the media and all Americans.

V. Conclusion

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