



December 11, 2024

Via Secure Release Portal

Federal Emergency Management Agency
FOIA Requester Service Center
500 C Street, SW, Room 840
Washington, DC 20472

Freedom of Information Act Request: Unconstitutional Restrictions on Speech by FEMA

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation (AFL) 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 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 317,000 followers.

I. Records Requested

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552, we request:

- A. All records of communications, including emails and other applications such as Signal, mentioning "Trump" or "Trump supporters" or "Trump signs" or "yard signs" or "isolated incident."
- B. All records of communications, including emails and other applications such as Signal, referencing the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability's hearing on Oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Agency taking place on November 19, 2024.

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, DC 20003

320 South Madison Avenue
Monroe, Georgia 30655

www.aflegal.org

- C. All records of communications, including emails and other applications such as Signal, sent to or received by, or mentioning Marn'i Washington.
- D. All records, including emails and other communications made through applications such as Signal, sent to or received by, or mentioning or created in the process of drafting Release Number HQ-24-304, *Statement from FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell on Employee Misconduct*, FED. EMERGENCY MGMT. AGENCY (Nov. 9, 2024), <https://perma.cc/E2EU-ACN9>.

The relevant time period for this request is September 27, 2024, through the date this request is processed.

II. Custodians

- A. Deanne Criswell, FEMA Administrator
- B. Marn'i Washington, FEMA Supervisor
- C. All custodians deployed to help administer assistance for Hurricanes Milton and Helene.
- D. All custodians in the Office of Public Affairs at the GS-14 grade and above.
- E. Jaclyn Rothenberg, Director, Public Affairs and Planning

Office of Response and Recovery

- A. Colt Hagmaier, Assistant Administrator
- B. Paul Judson, Deputy Assistant Administrator

Recovery

- C. Colt Hagmaier, Assistant Administrator
- D. Paul Judson, Deputy Assistant Administrator
- E. Robert Pesapane, Division Director, Public Assistance Division
- F. Bob Grimley, Acting Deputy Director, Public Assistance Division
- G. Frank Matranga, Director, Individual Assistance Division
- H. Dr. Elizabeth Asche, Deputy Director, Individual Assistance Division

I. Zachary Usher, Deputy Director, Individual Assistance Division

J. Grace Lee, Director, Interagency Coordination Division

Field Leadership Directorate

K. David Samaniego, Assistant Administrator

L. Rodrigus McAllister, National Incident Management Assistance Team Leader (Blue) (Acting)

M. Robert Patterson, Jr., National Incident Management Assistance Team Leader (Red)

N. Gerard Stolar, National Incident Management Assistance Team Leader (White)

O. Jordan Nelms, National Incident Management Assistance Team Leader (Homeland Security)

Field Operations

A. Robert Sullivan, Assistant Administrator (Acting)

B. Thomas Connelly, Deputy Assistant Administrator (Acting)

III. Processing and Fee Waiver

Processing should strictly comply with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.¹ Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's fee waiver regulations, AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees.

AFL has a demonstrated ability and intention to effectively convey the information broadly to the public; our status as a representative of the news media has been recognized by other agencies; we have been granted fee waivers by the Departments of State, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Justice, Interior, and Homeland Security. As a non-profit organization, AFL has no commercial interest in this request, which is made entirely to serve the public interest.

¹ U.S. DEP'T JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://perma.cc/79FZ-7DHM>.

Finally, disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and of government operations. We are available to provide additional information in writing or offline to support this request. Please contact us immediately if our fee waiver is not granted in full.

IV. Conclusion

To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed rolling basis. Please provide responsive records in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive records in native or PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Will Scolinos
America First Legal Foundation