



December 19, 2024

Via Online Request Portal

101 N Court Street
Frederick, MD 21701

Maryland Public Records Request: Federal Immigration Enforcement

Dear Public Records Coordinator:

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 320,000 followers.

I. Records Request

Pursuant to Maryland's Public Information Act ("PIA") §§ 4-101–601, AFL submits the following public records request:

- A. All communications with personnel from the embassies or consulates of the following countries: China, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Brazil, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, or Venezuela.
- B. All communications with correspondents with email domains ending in "dhs.gov" or "doj.gov" or with the Maryland Office of the Attorney General or the City of Frederick's Legal Department that mention or refer to Trump, immigration, or the arrest or presence of foreign nationals in the United States.

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, DC 20003

320 South Madison Avenue
Monroe, Georgia 30655

- C. All communications with correspondents with email domains ending in “un.org,” “gov.sa,” “gob.ve,” “diplomatie.ht,” “.pk,” “gob.ni,” “.ng,” “.ni,” “gob.gt,” “.gt,” “gob.hn,” “.hn,” “gob.sv,” “.sv,” “.ec,” “.so,” “.in,” “.br,” “gov.cn,” “edu.cn,” “.mx,” or “gob.mx.”
- D. All records and communications mentioning any of the following terms: “Trump,” “election,” “immigration,” “immigrant,” “detainer,” “Homan,” “NGO,” “alien,” “asylum,” “withholding of removal,” “family unit,” “[space]UAC[space],” “take our neighbors,” “migrant,” “public trust,” “sanctuary,” “safe space,” “Catholic Charities,” “Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service,” “LIRS,” “Episcopal Migration Ministries,” “Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society,” “HIAS,” “Church World Service,” “World Relief Corp,” “[space]INA[space],” “[space]ICE[space],” “Trust Act,” “removal,” “notice(s) to appear,” “notice(s) to report,” “order of recognizance,” “order of release,” “deport,” or “deportation.”
- E. All records, including communications, calendar entries, and documents mentioning or belonging to Mayor Michael O'Connor since November 1, 2024.
- F. Please exclude all responsive records containing the word “unsubscribe.”

The time period for these items is from November 1, 2024, to the date this request is processed. This request does not include communications that are press releases, news articles, or messages sent via listserv.

II. Custodians

- A. Michael O'Connor, Mayor
- B. Gayon Sampson, Chief of Staff
- C. Marc DeOcampo, Director of Strategic Planning and Executive Projects
- D. Phyllis Hane, City Clerk
- E. Kara Hemphill, Executive Office Manager
- F. Donna Kuzemchak, Council Member
- G. Ben MacShane, Council Member
- H. Katie Nash, Council Member

I. Kelly Russell, Council Member

J. Derek Shackelford, Council Member

K. Rachel Nessen, City Attorney

III. Fees

AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request. G.P. § 4-206(e). AFL is a 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 AFL's status as a representative of the news media has been recognized by many federal agencies, including the federal Departments of Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Justice, Interior, and Homeland Security, which have all granted fee waivers under the Federal Freedom of Information Act. Furthermore, this request is in the public interest and will contribute to the public's understanding of Federal immigration enforcement at the local level. We are, of course, available to provide additional information in writing or offline in support of this request. If you believe that AFL would be required under Maryland law to pay any fees in connection with this request, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

IV. Processing and Production

If any or all parts of this request are denied, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the records and provide notification of the appeal procedures available under the law. If you have any questions about this request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records, then please contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed-upon rolling basis. Please provide responsive records in an electronic format via 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