



August 14, 2025

VIA Portal

Brandynn Reaves
FOIA Officer
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 1100S
Washington, DC 20001

Freedom of Information Act: Crime Reporting Statistics

Dear Mr. Reaves:

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 353,000 followers on X.

I. Background

Progressive voices have coalesced around the talking point that violent crime in Washington, D.C., is at a 30-year low.¹ However, this claim deserves a closer investigation as examples of horrific crimes in the district fill the headlines almost daily, affecting D.C. residents, foreign embassy staffers, presidential appointments, congressional staffers, and tourists from around the world. The Nation’s Capital city reflects the values and state of our country.

Furthermore, the evidence suggests reason to question crime in the district’s “30-year low.” Metropolitan Police Department Commander Michael Pulliam’s suspension in

¹ Bad Hombre (@joma_gc), X (Aug. 11, 2025, 10:37 AM), <https://perma.cc/X6R9-YGBY>.

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, DC 20003

320 South Madison Avenue
Monroe, Georgia 30655

May 2025 amid allegations that he was altering crime statistics to artificially suppress data reflecting the true state of crime in the district.² To ensure that Washington, D.C. is not *juking the stats*, it is essential to obtain unaltered documents and communications derived directly from police reports, free from any external political influence.

II. Records Request

Pursuant to the D.C. CODE §§ 2-531-539, AFL hereby requests:

1. All records reflecting, including email communications, guidance documents, etc., reflecting changes to how the Metropolitan Police Department tracks and reports crime data.
2. All records reflecting the falsification or nonpublication of crime data and statistics.
3. All communications of Michael Pulliam, including emails and all other means of conducting official business.

The timeframe for this request is January 1, 2025 to the data this request is processed.

III. Fee Waiver

AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request D.C. CODE § 2-532(b). 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. Here, AFL will publish its findings on its website to facilitate transparency to the district's policies and practices relating to the reporting of crime statistics.

As a nonprofit organization, AFL does not have a commercial purpose, and releasing the requested information is not in AFL's financial interest.

² Paul Wagner, *DC Police Commander Suspended, Accused of Changing Crime Statistics*, NBC NEWS4 (July 18, 2025), <https://perma.cc/C6RV-YSRK>.

IV. 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