



July 15, 2024

Via eFOIPA portal

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attn: Initial Processing Operations Unit
Record/Information Dissemination Section
200 Constitution Drive
Winchester, VA 22602

**Freedom of Information Act Request: Records Related to Attempted
Assassin of Donald J. Trump**

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 248,000 followers and the X page of our Founder and President has over 658,000 followers.

I. Records Request

Yesterday, President Trump was shot at a rally in Pennsylvania. The FBI has identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks,¹ but minimal additional information has been released about Crooks's background and potential motives. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552, we request all records regarding **Thomas Matthew Crooks**.

¹ FBI Nat'l Press Office, FBI Statement on Incident in Butler, Pennsylvania, FBI (July 14, 2024), <https://bit.ly/3Wl8Njl>.

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, DC 20003

320 South Madison Avenue
Monroe, Georgia 30655

Responsive records may be found in the following offices and divisions within the Bureau:

Office of the Director/Deputy Director/Associate Deputy Director

- A. Insider Threat Office
- B. Resource Planning Office
- C. Office of the Chief Information Officer
- D. Pittsburgh Field Office

National Security Branch

- E. Office of the Executive Assistant Director (EAD)
- F. Counterintelligence Division
- G. Counterterrorism Division
- H. Terrorist Screening Center

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 28 C.F.R. § 16.10(k). 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 DOJ has granted us fee waivers in the past.

III. Expedited Processing

DOJ regulations require the grant of expedited processing for a FOIA request "whenever it is determined 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 that affect public confidence." 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e).

This is a critical moment for our nation and the world. This request patently qualifies for expedited processing under § 16.5(e)(1)(i), (ii) & (iv). An attempt has been made to assassinate a former President of the United States, a presumptive nominee of a major political party (who will accept the nomination in less than a week), and a frontrunner in the upcoming presidential election. Now, more than ever, the public deserves to know all the information DOJ leadership knew about this attempted assassin. As discussed above, America First Legal is a qualifying news media distributor, which has been recognized by DOJ in the past. This manifest attack on our political process is of paramount and urgent interest to the media and all Americans.

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