



July 15, 2024

Via Secure Release Portal

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

Via Email: FOIA@uss.s.dhs.gov

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Branch
245 Murray Lane, SW Building T-5
Washington, DC 20223

**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 657,000 followers.

I. Records Request

On Saturday, July 13, 2024, 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

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

motives. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552, we request all records regarding **Thomas Matthew Crooks**.

Responsive records may be found in the following components and offices within the Department:

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)

U.S. Secret Service (USSS)

- g. Office of Protective Operations

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 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.

III. 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).

This is a critical moment for our nation and the world. This request patently qualifies for expedited processing under §5.5(e)(ii) and §5.5(e)(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 DHS knew about this attempted assassin. As discussed above, America First Legal is a qualifying news media distributor, which has been recognized by DHS 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/ Rachel L. Jag
America First Legal Foundation