



July 14, 2024

Via Online Request Form

Douglas Hibbard
Chief, Initial Request Staff
Office of Information Policy
Department of Justice
6th Floor
441 G St, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Via Email: nsdfoia@usdoj.gov

Arnetta Mallory
Government Information Specialist
National Security Division
Department of Justice
3 Constitution Square
175 N Street NE, 12th Floor
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Via Online Request Form

Michael G. Seidel, Section Chief
Record/Information Dissemination Section
Records Management Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
200 Constitution Drive
Winchester, VA 22602

Freedom of Information Act Request: Communications on July 13, 2024

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

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, DC 20003

320 South Madison Avenue
Monroe, Georgia 30655

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 248,000 followers, and the X page of our Founder and President has over 656,000 followers.

I. Custodians

Office of the Attorney General

- a. Merrick B. Garland, Attorney General
- b. Matt Klapper, Chief of Staff

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

- c. Lisa Monaco, Deputy Attorney General

National Security Division

- d. Matthew G. Olsen, Assistant Attorney General
- e. David Newman, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
- f. Eun Young Choi, Deputy Assistant Attorney General
- g. Melissa MacTough, Deputy Assistant Attorney General
- h. George Toscas, Deputy Assistant Attorney General
- i. Brad Wiegmann, Deputy Assistant Attorney General
- j. Brett Freedman, Chief of Staff and Senior Counsel

Federal Bureau of Investigation

- k. Christopher Wray, Director
- l. Paul Abbate, Deputy Director
- m. Brian C. Turner, Associate Deputy Director
- n. Jonathan Lenzner, Chief of Staff
- o. Larissa L. Knapp, Executive Assistant Director, National Security Branch
- p. Robert R. Wells, Assistant Director of the Counterterrorism Division

Office of Public Affairs

q. Xochitl Hinojosa, Director

II. Records Requested

Under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a), AFL requests (A) all records created by or provided to (including memoranda and handwritten notes) and (B) communications (including text messages, call logs, and emails) to or from the custodians listed above on July 13, 2024.

IV. Processing and Production

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and 28 CFR § 16.10, AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees. AFL broadly disseminates information to the public regarding the operations and activities of the federal government, and numerous federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, have routinely granted our fee waiver requests. All records received will be posted on our website and made freely available to the public, and this request is not primarily in our commercial interest.

Also, AFL requests expedited processing of this request. In support thereof, AFL certifies its compelling need for expedited processing under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E) and 28 C.F.R. §§ 16.5(e)(1)(ii) & (iv). This is a critical moment for our nation and the world. This request patently qualifies for expedited processing under §§ 16.5(e)(1)(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, accurate information regarding Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation leadership's immediate response.¹ As discussed above, America First Legal is a qualifying news media distributor, which has been recognized by the Department of Justice in the past. This manifest attack on our political process is of paramount and urgent interest to the media and all Americans.

Processing should strictly comply with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.² If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate the more efficient production of requested records, please contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. If AFL's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

¹ See Jasper Ward, *Garland Says He Briefed Biden on Trump Rally Shooting*, REUTERS (July 13, 2024), <https://tinyurl.com/yx64eb6> (“‘The Justice Department will bring every available resource to bear on this investigation,’ Garland said in a statement.”); Anthony Guglielmi (@SecretSvcSpox), X (July 13, 2024, 8:49 PM), <https://tinyurl.com/3fv9dep5> (“The incident is currently under investigation and the Secret Service has formally notified the Federal Bureau of [I]nvestigation.”).

² U.S. DEP'T JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://tinyurl.com/59umhc8n>.

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/ Michael Ding

America First Legal Foundation