

August 14, 2025

VIA Electronic Delivery

District of Columbia
Executive Office of the Mayor
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20004
Via online portal

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear DC FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the District of Columbia Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, DC Code § 2-531-539. Democracy Forward Foundation submits this request for records.

Records Requested

Democracy Forward Foundation (“DFF”) requests that the Executive Office of the Mayor (“EOM”) produce the following within fifteen (15) business days:

All communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, calendar invitation attachments, text messages or messages on messaging platforms, including Slack and Microsoft Teams) between (a) any of the DC officials below and (b) the following federal officials, regarding the federalization of the Metropolitan Police Department.¹

¹Attorney General Pamela Bondi, Office of Public Affairs, Letter from Attorney General Bondi to FBI Director Patel, Department of Justice (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1391331/dl?inline>; Haley Chi-Sing, *Bondi says Epstein client list 'sitting on my desk right now,' and is reviewing JFK, MLK files*, Fox News (Feb. 21, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/bondi-says-epstein-client-list-sitting-my-desk-right-now>; Marc Caputo, *Scoop: FBI's Dan Bongino Clashes with AG Bondi Over Handling of Epstein Files*, Axios (July 11, 2025), <https://www.axios.com/2025/07/11/epstein-files-dan-bongino-pam-bondi-trump>; Alex Isenstadt, *Exclusive: DOJ, FBI conclude Epstein Had No "Client List," Died By Suicide*, Axios (July 6, 2025), <https://www.axios.com/2025/07/07/jeffrey-epstein-suicide-client-list-trump-administration>; Office of Public Affairs, *Attorney General Pamela Bondi Releases First Phase of Declassified Epstein Files*, Department of Justice (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/attorney-general-pamela-bondi-releases-first-phase-declassified-epstein-files>; Khadeeja Safdar and Joe Palazzolo, *Jeffrey Epstein's Friends Sent Him Bawdy Letters for a 50th Birthday Album. One Was From Donald Trump*, The Wall Street Journal (July 17, 2025), <https://www.wsj.com/politics/trump-jeffrey-epstein-birthday-letter-we-have-certain-things-in-common>; Michelle Stoddart, Alexandra Hutzler, and Lablee Ibssa, *Bondi Says She'll Try to Unseal Epstein Grant Jury Records*, ABC News (July 17, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-facing-maga-uproar-epstein-files-shift-blame/story>.

Custodians:

- I. Mayor Muriel Bowser
- II. Director of Communications Susanna Castillo
- III. Senior Advisor Beverly Perry
- IV. Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Tomás Talamante
- V. MPD Chief of Police Pamela Smith
- VI. MPD Chief of Staff Carl Amritt

Federal Officials:

- I. DEA Administrator Terry Cole
- II. Attorney General Pam Bondi
- III. Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche
- IV. Chief of Staff Chad Mizelle
- V. FBI Director Kash Patel
- VI. Deputy Director Dan Bongino
- VII. Associate Deputy Director J. William Rivers

The timeframe for the above search should be August 5, 2025 until August 14, 2025.

Please note that Democracy Forward Foundation does not seek the initial mailing of news clips or other mass-distribution emails. However, subsequent communications responding to or forwarding such emails are responsive to this request. For example, if a specific individual received a mass-distribution news clip email containing the term “Federalization” that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if that specific individual forwarded that email to another individual with his own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

Scope of Search

In searching for responsive records, please search for records regardless of format, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical materials. This request includes, without limitation, all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, calendar entries, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, minutes, or audio or video recordings of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. However, please exclude publicly available materials such as news clips that mention otherwise responsive search terms, unless the records contain additional discussion or commentary from District employees or contacts at CMS listed above.

The District of Columbia Freedom of Information Act requires agencies to disclose information, with only limited exceptions for information found within DC Official Code § 2–534. In the

event that DHCF wishes to deny the right to inspect or obtain a copy of requested records, we request a written statement from DHCF of the grounds for denial, citing the laws or regulations under which access is denied. DC Official Code § 2-533(a)(1). We also reserve the right to appeal any decisions to deny inspection of records. DC Official Code § 2-537(a).

If requested records are located in, or originated in, another agency, department, office, installation or bureau, please refer this request or any relevant portion of this request to the appropriate entity.

To the extent that the records are readily reproducible in a searchable, electronic format, we would prefer to receive the records in that format. However, if certain records are not available in that format, we are willing to accept the best available copy of each such record.

Please respond with to this request in writing within 15 business days to set a date as required by DC Official Code § 2-532(c)(1). If all of the requested documents are not available within that time period, we request that you provide us with all requested documents or portions of documents that are available within that time period.

Request for Fee Waiver

Democracy Forward Foundation requests a waiver of document search, review, and duplication fees associated with processing records for this request, in accordance with section DC Official Code § 2-532(b).

The requested waiver is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information sought primarily benefits the general public. Democracy Forward Foundation has a demonstrated ability to disseminate information of public interest requested through freedom of information statutes, and based upon responses to this request may assist in publicizing records received to contribute to the public's understanding of the District's actions relating to the federalization of the Metropolitan Police Department and the deployment of the National Guard.²

²Meg Anderson and Danielle Kurtzleben, *President Trump Taps Federal Law Enforcement Agencies to Police Washington, D.C.*, NPR (Aug. 9, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/08/08/g-s1-81755/trump-dc-federal-policing-washington-dc>; Josh Boak and David Klepper, *Trump Says He's Placing Washington Police Under Federal Control and Activating The National Guard*, Associated Press (Aug. 11, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/trump-washington-crime-national-guard-homelessness>; Olivia George, Emily Davies, Jenny Gathright, *As National Guard Troops Arrive, Uncertainty Over Command of D.C. Police*, The Washington Post (Aug. 13, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/08/12/trump-dc-police-takeover-control/>; Alex Koma, *Trump's Move to Federalize D.C. Police Angers Many Residents In The Capital*, NPR (Aug. 12, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/08/12/nx-s1-5498786/trumps-move-to-federalize-d-c-police-angers-many-residents-in-the-capital>; Sam Kosmas, *I'm The Mayor and He's The President': Bowser Navigates Trump's DC Takeover Un FOX 5 Exclusive*, FOX 5 (Aug. 13, 2025), <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/exclusive-mayor-bowser-chief-smith-discuss-trumps-dc-takeover-fox-5>; Chantelle Lee, *What Is The Home Rule Act, The Law Trump Invoked In His D.C. Takeover?* Time (Aug. 11, 2025), <https://time.com/7309000/dc-home-rule-act-trump/>; Cate Martel, *Trump Seizes Control of DC Police*, The Hill (Aug.

DFF has a demonstrated ability to disseminate information of public interest requested through FOIA. When DFF obtains materials through FOIA requests that are of significant public interest, DFF's communications staff regularly works to ensure that these materials and their contents are featured in press articles educating the public about the operation of government; many articles feature additional commentary and analysis from DFF staff about those materials and their relevance to policy issues of public interest. Indeed, records received by DFF have previously formed the basis of news reports.³

11, 2025), <https://thehill.com/newsletters/1230-report/5446247-trump-military-dc-deploys-national-guard-federalizes-dc-police-ghislaine-maxwell-grand-jury-files/>; Hanna Park and Michael Williams, *Trump Declared Federal Control of DC Police and Is Deploying the National Guard. Here's How He Is Able To Do It*, CNN (Aug. 12, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/08/12/politics/trump-federalized-dc-crime-home-rule-act-hnk>; Sophie Rosenthal, *DC Police Chief Says She Still Reports to Mayor Bowser*, WUSA 9 (Aug. 13, 2025), <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/police/mayor-muriel-bowser-police-chief-pamela-smith-federal-takeover-mpd-dc>; Perry Stein, Olivia George, Ellen Nakashima, and Dan Lamothe, *FBI Dispatching Agents to D.C. Streets as Trump Weighs Calling National Guard*, The Washington Post (Aug. 10, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/08/10/dc-crime-trump-crackdown/>; Michelle Stoddart and Sarah Beth Hensley, *Trump To Seek 'Long-Term' Extension of Federal Control of DC Police*, ABC News (Aug. 13, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/national-guard-troops-assist-dozens-arrests-dc-white/story?id=124613624>; Matt Viser, Emily Davies, and Perry Stein, *Inside Trump's Decision To Deploy The National Guard In D.C.*, The Washington Post (Aug. 12, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/08/12/trump-dc-take-over-police-national-guard/>.

³ See, e.g., Alexander Nazaryan, *Why did right-wing troll Charles C. Johnson meet with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross?*, Yahoo News (May 14, 2019), <https://news.yahoo.com/why-did-rightwing-troll-charles-c-johnson-want-to-meet-with-commerce-secretary-wilbur-ross-090000636.html>; Derek Kravitz and Jack Gillum, *"Happy to Do It": Emails Show Current FAA Chief Coordinated With Ex-Lobbyist Colleagues on Policy*, ProPublica (Mar. 27, 2019), <https://www.propublica.org/article/dan-elwell-current-faa-chief-coordinated-with-ex-lobbyist-colleagues-on-policy>; Hamid Aleaziz, *Emails Show US Border Officials Didn't Receive "Zero Tolerance" Guidance Until After the Policy Was Enacted*, BuzzFeed News (Feb. 28, 2019), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/zero-tolerance-policy-guidance-dhs-family-separation>; Jonathan Cohn and Jeffrey Young, *Emails Show Trump Administration Was Told Obamacare Ad Cuts Could Hurt Enrollment*, HuffPost (Dec. 17, 2018), https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-verma-obamacare-advertising-cut_us_5c115061e4b084b082ff8dba; Madison Pauly, *When the Biggest Prison Company Complained About a California Sanctuary Law, ICE Listened*, Mother Jones (Dec. 7, 2018), <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/12/geo-memo-private-prison-california-immigration/>; Eliza Rellman, *'Just answer the question and kill this story': In internal emails, Heather Nauert criticized Rex Tillerson's refusal to deny reports that he called Trump a 'moron.'* Business Insider (Nov. 2, 2018), <https://www.businessinsider.com/heather-nauert-rex-tillerson-trump-moron-2018-11>; Rebecca Klein, *Lawsuit Accuses Betsy DeVos And Her Deputies Of Being Motivated By Sexism*, HuffPost (Oct. 31, 2018), https://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/us_5bd9ff6ee4b01abe6a1ad4a9; Nick Penzenstadler, *A year after Vegas shooting, ATF emails reveal blame, alarm over bump stocks*, USA Today (Oct. 1, 2018), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/10/01/year-after-vegas-shooting-atf-emails-reveal-blame-alarm-over-bump-stocks/1432137002/>; Jessica Kwong, *Ivanka Trump was more than complicit in Obama equal pay rollback she had a hand in it, watchdog alleges*, Newsweek (Aug. 29, 2018), <https://www.newsweek.com/ivanka-trump-equal-pay-complicit-obama-1093833>; Vera Bergengruen, *New Emails Show What Happens When The Pentagon Has To Scramble To Catch Up To Trump*, BuzzFeed News (July 25, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/verabergengruen/these-emails-show-what-happens-when-the-white-house-keeps>; Erin Dooley, *Exclusive: Former for-profit college executive shaped Education Department policy that could benefit former employers: Documents*, ABC News (May 15, 2017), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/exclusive-profit-college-executive-shaped-education-department-policy/story?id=55108981>; Heidi Przybyla, *Notes, emails reveal Trump appointees' war to end HHS teen pregnancy program*, NBC News (Mar. 20, 2018), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/notes-emails-reveal-trump-appointees-war-end-hhs-teen-pregnancy-n857686>; Dominic Holden, *Documents Show The Trump Administration Approved Bump Stocks Before*

Conclusion

If you need clarification as to the scope of the request, have any questions, or foresee any obstacles to releasing fully the requested records within ten business days, please contact me as soon as possible at foia@democracyforward.org.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Skye Perryman

President and CEO

Democracy Forward Foundation

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Washington, D.C. 20043

It Opposed Them, BuzzFeed News (Mar. 22, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/dominicholden/trump-administration-bump-stocks>; Bernard Condon, *Trump Advisor Denies He Cheered End of Tunnel Funding Deal*, Associated Press (Feb. 13, 2018), available at <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2018-02-13/trump-adviser-denies-he-cheered-end-of-tunnel-funding-deal>; Celeste Katz, *Interior Department tapped wildfire preparedness funds for Ryan Zinke helicopter tour*, Newsweek (Dec. 29, 2017), <https://www.newsweek.com/ryan-zinke-interior-department-helicopters-wildfires-757857>.