



CITIZENS FOR
RESPONSIBILITY &
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON

August 16, 2022

Senior Director of FOIA Operations
Privacy Office
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
STOP-0655
Washington, D.C. 20598-0655

Re: Expedited Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Sir/Madam:

Today, on behalf of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) I submitted to the U.S. Secret Service an expedited request for records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. §552, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) regulations. The request seeks two categories of records concerning directives and policies of the Secret Service related to the three-month system migration that included a reset of Secret Service mobile phones, and to the recordkeeping responsibilities of departing Secret Service employees. I include a copy of that request for your convenience.

CREW also sought expedition based on the “urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity” and the fact that CREW is “primarily engaged in disseminating information[.]” 6 C.F.R. §5.5(e)(1)(ii). CREW also seeks expedition from your office pursuant to 6 C.F.R. §5.5(e)(2) because the request concerns a matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government’s integrity affecting public confidence. DHS’s Inspector General has launched a criminal investigation into text messages that were deleted from Secret Service phones as part of the referenced migration and concerned a period of time during which supporters of then-President Trump violently attacked the U.S. Capitol and engaged in other illegal efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election.¹ The missing Secret Service text messages have been the subject of intense scrutiny and media interest, as evidenced by the extensive new reporting on the subject. Unquestionably the requested records raise “possible questions about the government’s integrity” affecting public confidence.

The undersigned certifies that the above statement is true and correct.

Conclusion

¹ See, e.g., Maria Sacchetti and Carol D. Leonnig, Watchdog launches criminal probe over missing Secret Service messages, *Washington Post*, July 21, 2022, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/07/21/oig-secret-service-texts/>; Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Maggie Haberman, Watchdog Informs Secret Service of Criminal Inquiry Into Missing Texts, *New York Times*, July 21, 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/21/us/politics/secret-service-criminal-inquiry-missing-texts.html>.

If you have any questions about this request for expedition please contact me at weismann.anne@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne L. Weismann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized 'A'.

Anne L. Weismann