



**United States Department of State**

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

September 29, 2022

Case No. FL-2020-00134

Nikhel Sus  
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics of Washington  
1101 K St., NW Suite 201  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Sus:

As we noted in our letter dated August 29, 2022, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Thus far, the Department of State has identified an additional two responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that both records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney Benton Peterson at [Benton.Peterson@usdoj.gov](mailto:Benton.Peterson@usdoj.gov) or (202) 252-2534. Please refer to the case number, FL-2020-00134, and the civil action number, 20-cv-02076, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diamonece Hickson', written in a cursive style.

Diamonece Hickson  
Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch  
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

(b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:

- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
- 1.4(b) Foreign government information
- 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
- 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
- 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction

(b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

(b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505

(b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

(b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product

(b)(6) Personal privacy information

(b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:

- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
- (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
- (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (D) disclose confidential sources
- (E) disclose investigation techniques
- (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

(b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions

(b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	Susan Pompeo (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6) Lawler, Sean P (b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: Madison Dinner Invitation edits
<b>Date:</b>	Fri, 29 Jun 2018 00:40:59 +0000

Many thanks Mrs. Pompeo. We'll wait to hear from (b)(6) on whichever addresses she may need for us. We do have phone numbers and email addresses. Thank you for sharing your own updates.

We will begin a separate guest list for the July 26<sup>th</sup> dinner and ADD Sec. and Mrs. Mnuchin to that list per your own conversation. Then wait to hear of your suggestion as a replacement for the Mnuchin's on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

(b)(6)

**Official**  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

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**From:** Susan Pompeo (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 28, 2018 8:30 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); (b)(6) Lawler, Sean P  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Madison Dinner Invitation edits

I have the following home addresses:

Norah and Geoff  
Ghoorahs  
Cornyns  
Tosi.

O'Donnell and Tracy; Cornyns and Tosis are definite "yes." Mnuchins will be attending on July 26. And, I'm waiting to hear back from Ghoorahs. Will find new name to replace Mnuchins.

(b)(6) which home addresses are you still looking for? I will also send email addresses and telephone numbers that I have.

sjp

On Jun 28, 2018, at 6:03 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

Super (b)(6) thank you! (b)(6) is printing the invitations now and will write the names on the nicer envelopes. Thank you.

(b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 28, 2018 6:01 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) Susan Pompeo (b)(6) (b)(6)  
 (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (b)(6) Lawler, Sean P (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Madison Dinner Invitation edits

All,

I'm working on getting the home addresses for mailing.

Thank you.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the U.S. Secretary of State  
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 28, 2018 5:37 PM  
**To:** Susan Pompeo (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6); Lawler, Sean P (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Madison Dinner Invitation edits

Thank you..we will get these mailed tomorrow and reach out as soon as we have any responses. (And follow up with both the email and phone calls of course.)  
Best,

(b)(6)

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**From:** Susan Pompeo (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 28, 2018 5:21 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6)  
 (b)(6); Lawler, Sean P (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Madison Dinner Invitation edits

Bravo! Looks good. Let's go! Susan

On Jun 28, 2018, at 5:07 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

Good afternoon Mrs. Pompeo,

Attached for your approval is the final revised invitation based upon your edits below.

As for the additional information explaining the history of the dinners, we were planning to incorporate that text into the email body of the electronic invitation, as well as in the menu. We will share the menu mockup with you next week.

Please let us know if you have any questions or further edits.

Best,  
(b)(6)

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**From:** Susan Pompeo (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 28, 2018 10:57 AM  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6)  
 (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); Lawler, Sean P (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Madison Dinner Invitation edits  
**Importance:** High

(b)(6)

Late last night, I shared the Madison Dinners invitation with Mike and here are the final edits (on the invite design with James and Dolley Madison's portraits):

#1, First line to read: "The Secretary and Mrs. Mike Pompeo". Please be sure that both our first names are used in the follow up email so that guests have my first name.

#2, The branding "logo" for the dinners should be changed as follow:

\*Copy in the top of the circle to read: "Secretary Mike Pompeo"

\*Diagonal rectangle across logo to read: "Madison Dinners" (note the plural of dinners is the change)

#3, Add a line underneath the "please respond" line that reads: Questions? Please contact (NAME) at (telephone number). Mike wants to be sure that all invited guests have a name and phone number of a human being to contact. Ideally that name would be the same person receiving the RSVPs. (b)(6) is the protocol coordinator for these dinners, yes? So, maybe her email address/name in both?

#4, We both feel that it is not at all clear that the quote at the bottom is being credited to James Madison because it's not continuous and Pres. Madison's name/titles are in a different font, a smaller font and not bolded as is the quote. Mike would like it changed so that the quote and the quoter are all in the same font, same sized font, same boldness. And, we need to not have the quoter's name flipped to a separate line. That is, something like this:

**"The happy union of these States is a wonder, their Constitution a miracle;  
their example the hope of Liberty throughout the world." — James Madison,  
4th President of the United States and 5th U.S. Secretary of State**

#5, What is the plan to provide the explanation of the history of these dinners (so as to provide more information about what the heck this dinner is) up front to the invitee?

Just to confirm, our agreed upon method of invitee contact is as follows:

1 (b)(6) to call each guest to alert them to the arriving invitation.

2. Printed invitation postal mailed to each guest at their home.

3. Shortly after the arrival of postal mailed invitation, an electronic invitation with the printed invitation attached and copy in the body of the email that will include Mike and Susan's first names.

4. Follow up call if/when we have not heard from invitee with confirmed response.

5. As each guests responds, Susan will be immediately alerted so that she can sub in a new name as long as time allows, before dinner date.

6. Susan will provide contact information for dinner invitees, to the extent that she has it. If she does not, the responsibility to secure the telephone numbers, mailing addresses and email addresses for the guests will be (b)(6)

Our July 17 dinner invitations need to be mailed this week, as we agreed in our meeting. Thank you!

Susan  
<July 17 Madison Dinner invite.pdf>

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Recipient:</b>	Susan Pompeo (b)(6)
	(b)(6) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	Lawler, Sean P (b)(6)

<b>From:</b>	Susan Pompeo (b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	Lawler, Sean P (b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: 26 March Madison Dinner - Diplomatic Corps
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 19 Mar 2019 06:06:22 -0500

Egypt sounds good to us for March 26. Thank you for the reminder of Ramadan.

Kansas was great. There was plenty of entrepreneurial enthusiasm!

We're about six hours out from Kuwait!

Susan

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 19, 2019, at 6:02 AM, Lawler, Sean P (b)(6) wrote:

Yes ma'am... may I suggest Egypt this time around as the President just offered a visit to Washington for their President next month.

One note though - our dates in May and June fall during the holy month of Ramadan and we'll need to look at non-Muslim countries.

Hope all is well in Kansas,,,!

v/r

Sean

Ambassador Sean P. Lawler

Chief of Protocol of the United States

**From:** Susan Pompeo (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2019 10:45 PM  
**To:** Lawler, Sean P  
**Subject:** Re: 26 March Madison Dinner - Diplomatic Corps

Hi Sean,

Wanted to be sure word got to you that Mike has decided not to reschedule the March 26 Madison Dinner.

So, with respect to a diplomatic corp guest for the evening—I ran the Colombian Ambassador by Mike. He feels like he has spent time with him & wants us to come up with other suggestions.

As you consider that—there are Ambassadors who regularly include us in business & personal events/activities and have extended themselves over & above to us. At some point, we want to invite them to a Madison Dinner:

UAE

Bahrain

Egypt

Italy

Kuwait.

Just to have in your head. Let me know your thoughts on March 26. Many thanks,



Susan

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 15, 2019, at 9:04 AM, Lawler, Sean P (b)(6) wrote:

G'day ma'am –

I know you have a long trip ahead of you, but wanted to solicit your thoughts on the recommendation for the Colombian Ambassador to be your diplomatic corps guest on the 26<sup>th</sup>?

Thank you and safe travels!!!

v/r  
Sean

Ambassador Sean P. Lawler  
Chief of Protocol of the United States

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<b>Sender:</b>	Susan Pompeo (b)(6)
<b>Recipient:</b>	Lawler, Sean P (b)(6)