

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 1:22-cv-01106 (RDM)

ANSWER

Defendant The National Archives and Records Administration, by and through its undersigned counsel, hereby answers the numbered paragraphs of the Complaint filed by Plaintiff Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington as follows:

1. Paragraph 1 consists of Plaintiff's characterization of this action, to which no response is required, and Defendant refers the Court to Plaintiff's Complaint for a complete and accurate statement of its contents.

2. Paragraph 2 consists of Plaintiff's characterization of this action, to which no response is required.

3. Paragraph 3 states a conclusion of law, to which no response is required.

4. Paragraph 4 states a conclusion of law, to which no response is required.

5. Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 5.

6. Admit the first sentence. The second sentence states a conclusion of law, to which no response is required.

7. Paragraph 7 states a conclusion of law, to which no response is required.

8. Paragraph 8 states a conclusion of law, to which no response is required.

9. Paragraph 9 states a conclusion of law, to which no response is required.

10. Paragraph 10 states a conclusion of law, to which no response is required.

11. Paragraph 11 purports to characterize the cited news stories. Defendant respectfully refers the Court to those news stories for a complete and accurate statement of their contents and denies any allegations inconsistent therewith.

12. Defendant admits that it received a letter from Plaintiff in May 2019. Defendant respectfully refers the Court to Plaintiff's May 2019 letter for a complete and accurate statement of its contents and denies any allegations inconsistent therewith.

13. Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 13.

14. Defendant admits that it received a FOIA request on August 16, 2021. Defendant respectfully refers the Court to Plaintiff's August 16, 2021 FOIA request for a complete and accurate statement of its contents and denies any allegations inconsistent therewith.

15. Defendant respectfully refers the Court to Plaintiff's August 16, 2021 FOIA request for a complete and accurate statement of its contents and denies any allegations inconsistent therewith.

16. Admit.

17. Admit.

18. Defendant repeats and restates the responses to the foregoing paragraphs.

19. Paragraph 19 consists of conclusions of law, to which no response is required.

20. Paragraph 20 consists of conclusions of law, to which no response is required.

21. Paragraph 21 consists of conclusions of law, to which no response is required.
22. Paragraph 22 consists of conclusions of law, to which no response is required.
23. Paragraph 23 consists of conclusions of law, to which no response is required.

The remaining paragraphs of the Complaint constitute a request for relief, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies that Plaintiff is entitled to the relief requested or to any relief at all.

Defendant hereby denies all allegations in Plaintiff's Complaint not expressly admitted or denied in this Answer.

DEFENSE

Plaintiff is not entitled to compel production of any records exempt from disclosure by one or more exemptions enumerated in the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

Dated: June 1, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney
General

ELIZABETH J. SHAPIRO
Deputy Branch Director

/s/ Laurel H. Lum
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