



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 30, 2023

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 April 28, 2023, 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 (“Department”) has identified seven additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all seven 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 record. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records and applying FOIA exemptions. 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 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "H".

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

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| From: | (b)(6) |
| To: | Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6) |
| CC: | (b)(6) |
| Subject: | RE: Working Dinner Draft |
| Date: | Mon, 1 Jun 2020 18:33:44 +0000 |

Will do, thanks!

Best,

(b)(6)

Budget Analyst (S/CPR/M)

Phone: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Stay connected with Protocol:



This e-mail and any attachments may contain confidential and/or proprietary information. If you received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail and delete the e-mail and any attachments; any further use of such e-mail or attachments is strictly prohibited.

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 2:16 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Working Dinner Draft

Madison dinner was still in the document and on the name of the document. Please use this list.

Thank you.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 2:10 PM
To: Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Working Dinner Draft

Hi Cam,

EDCS highlighted the amount in the KFund Reports so I have to respond based on that. As for the Madison Dinner, I took it out and just left *"Working Dinner hosted by SECSTATE with non-USG Officials for the U.S. Foreign Policy Discussion Dinner Series."* See attached copy of one of the list, is this acceptable? If it is, then I can go ahead and submit to EDCS. Thanks!

Best,

(b)(6)

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sender: | (b)(6) |
| Recipient: | Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6) |
| | Fisher, Mary-Kate (b)(6) |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| From: | (b)(6) |
| To: | (b)(6) |
| CC: | Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6) Fisher, Mary-Kate (b)(6) |
| Subject: | RE: May 28 Madison Dinner |
| Date: | Fri, 24 Apr 2020 16:47:18 +0000 |

Our pleasure (b)(6) We are only a phone call away.
Have a good weekend.

Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)
Assistant Chief of Protocol
For Ceremonials
Department of State

(b)(6)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 12:38 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6) Fisher, Mary-Kate (b)(6)
Subject: Re: May 28 Madison Dinner

Hi (b)(6)

I'm so glad to hear you, your colleagues, and families are all well.

Thank you for this helpful information. I will stand by for an update when it becomes available.

Many thanks. Please take good care.

Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)

On Apr 24, 2020, at 12:26 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

Hello (b)(6) and great to hear from you during such an unprecedented time. Fortunately, I think I can say we and our families are all well and fine and grateful to be so.

I have heard nothing about the proposed May 28 Madison dinner at this point. I know Cam and Mary-Kate can elaborate IF we think that date or any other proposed event dates will move forward. We receive updates from our HR/Management team twice a week and know they are attempting to formulate future guidelines for re-opening. But again, nothing final and I know Cam will reconfirm.

Stay well and please don't hesitate to reach out.
Very best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Assistant Chief of Protocol
For Ceremonials
Department of State

(b)(6)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 9:18 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6) Fisher, Mary-Kate (b)(6)
Subject: May 28 Madison Dinner

Good Morning,

I hope you are well and staying healthy. I have certainly missed seeing you.

I wanted to check in to see if you've perhaps received any guidance RE: the status of the May 28 Madison Dinner? It is still on both S's and Mrs. Pompeo's calendars.

Please let me know if you have an update or recommendation - or if we should just hold for now.

Thank you and please take good care of yourselves.

Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Sender: | (b)(6) |
| Recipient: | Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6) Fisher, Mary-Kate (b)(6) |

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| From: | "Henderson, Katherine C" <(b)(6)> |
| To: | Fisher, Mary-Kate <(b)(6)> (b)(6) |
| Subject: | RE: May 28 Madison Dinner |
| Date: | Fri, 24 Apr 2020 16:27:55 +0000 |

What is think is weird that (b)(6) is asking for guidance... shouldn't she ask Mrs. P?

From: Fisher, Mary-Kate (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 12:27 PM
To: (b)(6); Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6)
Subject: FW: May 28 Madison Dinner

Thanks, (b)(6) Taking (b)(6) off for a second - Should we recommend pulling this? Or talk to Mrs. P? Do you think it would be weird to send invites as soon as next week for an event that may require people to use air travel in late May?

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 12:26 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6); Fisher, Mary-Kate (b)(6)
Subject: RE: May 28 Madison Dinner

Hello (b)(6) and great to hear from you during such an unprecedented time. Fortunately, I think I can say we and our families are all well and fine and grateful to be so.

I have heard nothing about the proposed May 28 Madison dinner at this point. I know Cam and Mary-Kate can elaborate IF we think that date or any other proposed event dates will move forward. We receive updates from our HR/Management team twice a week and know they are attempting to formulate future guidelines for re-opening. But again, nothing final and I know Cam will reconfirm.

Stay well and please don't hesitate to reach out.

Very best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Assistant Chief of Protocol

**For Ceremonials
Department of State**

(b)(6)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 9:18 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6); Fisher, Mary-Kate (b)(6)
Subject: May 28 Madison Dinner

Good Morning,

I hope you are well and staying healthy. I have certainly missed seeing you.

I wanted to check in to see if you've perhaps received any guidance RE: the status of the May 28 Madison Dinner? It is still on both S's and Mrs. Pompeo's calendars.

Please let me know if you have an update or recommendation - or if we should just hold for now.

Thank you and please take good care of yourselves.

Best,

(b)(6)

Toni Porter
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sender: | "Henderson, Katherine C" (b)(6) |
| Recipient: | Fisher, Mary-Kate (b)(6) (b)(6) |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| From: | (b)(6) |
| To: | |
| Subject: | RE: Madison Dinner Run of Show and Facebook |
| Date: | Mon, 24 Feb 2020 22:23:24 +0000 |

My apologies, I must have left my work iPhone in the charger at home. (b)(6)

(b)(6)
Protocol Officer
Office of the Chief of Protocol
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| From: | (b)(6) |
| Sent: | Monday, February 24, 2020 12:03 PM |
| To: | (b)(6) |
| Subject: | Madison Dinner Run of Show and Facebook |

Thank you in advance for your help with the Madison Dinner tonight! Please see attached run of show and facebook.

Best,
(b)(6)

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Sender: | (b)(6) |
| Recipient: | |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| From: | (b)(6) |
| To: | |
| Subject: | Re: FW: Updated invite proof/SEPTEMBER 14 MADISON DINNER AT BLAIR HOUSE |
| Date: | Tue, 25 Aug 2020 21:51:16 +0000 |

Hi (b)(6)
 This looks great. (b)(6) and I clear on the wording.

Thanks!
 (b)(6)

 Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On August 25, 2020 at 5:12:09 PM EDT, (b)(6) wrote:
 (b)(6), it was suggested we add several sentences on Blair House to our usual Madison dinner invitation that we send both digitally and a postal copy to our guests who have accepted. This is the BACK side of the invitation which is the second page of the attached pdf. (The first paragraph is focused on James and Dolley Madison.)

I began with paraphrasing the generic description from my Blair House book and then (b)(6) also pulled the description from our website. Both (b)(6) and I and (b)(6) and (b)(6) feel these additions are both suitable and necessary since the September dinners will occur at this historic location.

Before sending to the front office I wanted to ensure your clearance on our selected wording. Many thanks!!

Very best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Assistant Chief of Protocol
 For Ceremonials
 Department of State

(b)(6)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 3:54 PM

To: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Updated invite proof

The attached 9-14-20 pdf has the requested edits for you to share with (b)(6) review of the BH text.

(b)(6)

<9-14-20 proof MD email invitation.pdf>

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|--|
| Sender: | (b)(6) | |
| Recipient: | | |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| From: | (b)(6) |
| To: | (b)(6) |
| CC: | Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6) Fisher, Mary-Kate (b)(6) |
| Subject: | RE: Feb. 24 Madison Dinner Materials |
| Date: | Thu, 20 Feb 2020 02:16:15 +0000 |

No worries (b)(6) and high on our list. I will send you what bios we have tonight and Face Book and then a draft seating tomorrow. Many thanks.

Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Assistant Chief of Protocol
For Ceremonials
Department of State

(b)(6)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:28 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6) Fisher, Mary-Kate (b)(6)
Subject: Feb. 24 Madison Dinner Materials

Hi Ladies,

I wanted to quickly touch base about the materials (including bios) for the Madison Dinner next Monday. We have been asked to have the materials ready by early to mid-afternoon on Friday so hard copies for S and Mrs. P can be couriered to the Residence before COB on Friday - with other materials for Monday.

Please let me know how I can assist.

Thank you.

Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sender: | (b)(6) |
| Recipient: | Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6) |
| | Fisher, Mary-Kate (b)(6) |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| From: | (b)(6) |
| To: | Susan Pompeo (b)(6) |
| CC: | (b)(6) Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6) Fisher, Mary-Kate (b)(6) (b)(6) |
| Subject: | Re: DRAFT DOCUMENTS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27/MADISON DINNER |
| Date: | Wed, 26 Feb 2020 13:35:29 +0000 |

Thank you Mrs. Pompeo.

Very best,

(b)(6)

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On February 26, 2020 at 7:12:04 AM EST, Susan Pompeo (b)(6) wrote:

(b)(6)

Seating chart for tomorrow's dinner is a-ok. Thank you, Susan

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 25, 2020, at 9:52 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

Mrs. Pompeo, I wanted to send these draft documents to you for the Thursday, February 27 Madison dinner. Seating, Facebook, Scenario and Menu. I will stand by for any seating changes you and the Secretary wish to make.

Total of 13 guests with you and the Secretary.

Will also send separately the excel sheet updates and the latest regrets for these last three dinners so you can focus on names for the March 16 dinner.

Many thanks (b)(6)

Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Assistant Chief of Protocol
For Ceremonials**

Department of State

(b)(6)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

- <Seating & Diagrams 2.27.20.pdf>
- <Run of Show 2.27.20.docx>
- <Madison Dinner Facebook 2.27.20.docx>
- <2-27-20 Madison Dinner menu proof.pdf>

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sender: | (b)(6) |
| Recipient: | Susan Pompeo (b)(6) |
| | (b)(6) |
| | Henderson, Katherine C (b)(6) |
| | Fisher, Mary-Kate (b)(6) |
| | (b)(6) |