



CITIZENS FOR
RESPONSIBILITY &
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON

September 19, 2025

BY EMAIL: FOIA@usss.dhs.gov

United States Secret Service
Communications Center (FOIA/PA)
245 Murray Lane
Building T-5
Washington, D.C. 20223

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) submits this 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.

Specifically, CREW requests all records from January 20, 2025 to the date this request is processed relating to the evaluation and selection of venues for the Group of 20 Nations (“G20”) Summit and events related to it (collectively, the “G20 Summit”) to be hosted by the United States in 2026. This request includes, without limitation:

1. All documents regarding proposals submitted by potential hosts of the G20 Summit, including Trump National Doral;¹
2. All records mentioning Trump National Doral as a potential or actual venue for the G20 Summit, including discussions of its relative strengths and weaknesses;
3. All communications from the Secret Service regarding the selection of venues for the G20 Summit;
4. All records reflecting the criteria by which potential hosts and venues for the G20 Summit were evaluated;
5. All communications between the Secret Service and Senior Protocol Officer Tara A. Juliard regarding the selection of the venue for the G20 Summit,

¹ As discussed below, the Department of State solicited such proposals from American cities in early 2025, with proposals due on February 3, 2025.

regardless of the email address on which such communications were conducted.

The above numbered items identify the records that CREW believes are most likely to be responsive to its request, but in no way limit DHS's obligations to CREW under FOIA to search for and produce all responsive records even if they are not included among the numbered items.

Please search for responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. We seek records of any kind, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical material. Our request includes without limitation all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. Our request also includes any attachments to emails and other records, and anyone who was cc'ed or bcc'ed on any emails.

If it is your position any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, CREW requests that you provide it with an index of those documents as required under *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). If some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). If it is your position that a document contains non-exempt segments, but that those non-exempt segments are so dispersed throughout the document as to make segregation impossible, please state what portion of the document is non-exempt, and how the material is dispersed throughout the document. See *Mead Data Central v. U.S. Dep't of the Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977).

Please be advised that CREW intends to pursue all legal remedies to enforce its rights under FOIA. Accordingly, because litigation is reasonably foreseeable, the agency should institute an agencywide preservation hold on all documents potentially responsive to this request.

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A) and agency regulations, CREW requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures likely will contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by CREW and the general public in a significant way. See *id.* § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Moreover, the request primarily and fundamentally is for non-commercial purposes. See, e.g., *McClellan Ecological v. Carlucci*, 835 F.2d 1282, 1285 (9th Cir. 1987).

On January 7, 2025, the Department of State solicited proposals from American cities to host a series of meetings for the 2026 G20 Summit.² Proposals were due on February 3, 2025 sent from a verified State or municipal government address.³ The proposals were to be reviewed in February 2025 and cities who submitted bids were to be asked to give a virtual

² Federal Register, Vol. 90, No. 4, January 7, 2025, Notices available at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-01-07/pdf/2025-00018.pdf>.

³ *Id.*

presentation of their bid.⁴ Cities were told to expect the administration to visit the bid cities to review the venues and meet with city officials who were part of the proposal.⁵

On September 5, 2025, President Donald Trump announced that the 2026 G20 summit will be hosted at his for-profit business, Trump National Doral.⁶ He told reporters at a press conference in the Oval Office that, “everybody wants it there, because it’s right next to the airport, it’s the best location” and added, “[t]hey actually requested that it be there because the location is the best and we will not make any money on it. You know, we’re doing a deal where it’s not going to be money.”⁷

This plan had been reported earlier in the summer. On July 30, 2025, multiple members of the press reported that a White House official said that President Trump was discussing plans to host the 2026 G20 summit at his for-profit business, Trump National Doral.⁸ The official told reporters that the “idea has been discussed for weeks” and an aide was seen carrying a “G20 Miami 2026” sign into the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in June.⁹

President Trump has previously attempted to host diplomatic summits at Trump National Doral without regard to proper solicitation or bidding processes. During his first term in 2020, President Trump announced he was planning to host the 2020 G7 Summit at Trump Doral, which reportedly was a last-minute decision.¹⁰ It had not been among the original four sites that had submitted proposals and had been vetted for the G7 Summit.¹¹ The ad hoc plan to host the summit at Trump National Doral was abandoned after public outcry over the decision.¹²

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *President Trump Makes Announcements, Sep. 5, 2025*, The White House (September 5, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/videos/president-trump-makes-announcements-sep-5-2025/>.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Josh Wingrove and Jorge Valero, *Trump Eyes His Doral Club for G-20*, Bloomberg (July 30, 2025), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-07-30/trump-eyes-doral-club-for-g-20-summit-revisiting-scrapped-idea>.

⁹ Alayna Treene, *Trump privately discussing plans to host G20 at his Doral resort, White House official says*, CNN (July 30, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/07/30/politics/g20-doral-resort-trump>.

¹⁰ David A. Fahrenthold and Josh Dawsey, *Trump’s Doral resort was a last-minute addition in search for G-7 site, newly released email shows*, The Washington Post (November 15, 2019), https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trumps-doral-resort-was-a-last-minute-addition-in-search-for-g-7-site-newly-released-email-shows/2019/11/15/f39056a0-07fa-11ea-8ac0-0810ed197c7e_story.html.

¹¹ *Secret Service records contradict Trump’s claim on Doral G-7*, CREW (November 15, 2019), <https://www.citizensforethics.org/reports-investigations/crew-investigations/secret-service-docs-contradict-trump-doral-g-7/>.

¹² Anita Kumar and Evan Semones, *After backlash, Trump says his Doral resort won’t host G-7 summit*, Politico (October 19, 2019), <https://www.politico.com/news/2019/10/19/trump-says-his-doral-resort-will-no-longer-host-g7-summit-000292>.

White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney said at the time that the Doral site had been selected through an extensive search process.¹³ However, internal records contradicted this claim, indicating that Secret Service agents had already shortlisted several locations before being told to add President Trump's Doral property to the list.¹⁴ "Our original itinerary included Hawaii, Utah, California and North Carolina," a Secret Service official had written in an internal email, "By departure, they had already cut two (California and North Carolina) and added Miami on the back end."¹⁵

Trump and members of his administration have used the executive office to draw business to his properties in other contexts.¹⁶ Given President Trump's repeated use of the presidency to promote his business interests and the fact that he has attempted to improperly steer similar diplomatic summits to Trump National Doral before, the public has a compelling interest in learning about how Trump National Doral was selected to host the 2026 G20 Summit.

CREW is a non-profit corporation, organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. CREW is committed to protecting the public's right to be aware of the activities of government officials, to ensuring the integrity of those officials, and to highlighting and working to reduce the influence of money on politics. CREW uses a combination of research, litigation, and advocacy to advance its mission. CREW intends to analyze the information responsive to this request and to share its analysis with the public through reports, press releases, or other means. In addition, CREW will disseminate any documents it acquires from this request to the public through its website, www.citizensforethics.org. The release of information obtained through this request is not in CREW's financial interest.

CREW further requests that it not be charged search or review fees for this request pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II) because CREW qualifies as a member of the news media. See *Nat'l Sec. Archive v. U.S. Dep't of Defense*, 880 F.2d 1381, 1386 (D.C. Cir. 1989) (holding non-profit a "representative of the news media" and broadly interpreting the term to include "any person or organization which regularly publishes or disseminates information to the public").

¹³ Toluse Olorunnipa, David A. Fahrenthold and Jonathan O'Connell, *Trump has awarded next year's G-7 summit of world leaders to his Miami-area resort, the White House said*, The Washington Post (October 17, 2019), https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-has-awarded-next-years-g-7-summit-of-world-leaders-to-his-miami-area-resort-the-white-house-said/2019/10/17/221b32d6-ef52-11e9-89eb-ec56cd414732_story.html.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ David A. Fahrenthold and Josh Dawsey, *Trump's Doral resort was a last-minute addition in search for G-7 site, newly released email shows*, The Washington Post (November 15, 2019), https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trumps-doral-resort-was-a-last-minute-addition-in-search-for-g-7-site-newly-released-email-shows/2019/11/15/f39056a0-07fa-11ea-8ac0-0810ed197c7e_story.html.

¹⁶ Honora Overby, *Political committees have spent \$675K at Trump properties since Trump's reelection*, CREW (May 15, 2025), <https://www.citizensforethics.org/reports-investigations/crew-investigations/political-committees-have-spent-675k-at-trump-properties-since-trumps-reelection/>.

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CREW routinely disseminates information obtained through FOIA to the public in several ways. For example, CREW's website receives over 150,000 page views every month. The website includes blogposts that report on and analyze newsworthy developments regarding government ethics, corruption, and money in politics, as well as numerous reports CREW has published to educate the public about these issues. These reports frequently rely on government records obtained through FOIA. CREW also posts the documents it obtains through FOIA on its website.

Under these circumstances, CREW satisfies fully the criteria for a fee waiver.

Conclusion

If you have any questions about this request or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please email me at ghaley@citizensforethics.org and foia@citizensforethics.org or call me at (202) 408-5565. Also, if CREW's request for a fee waiver is denied, please contact our office immediately upon making such a determination.

Where possible, please produce records in electronic format. Please send the requested records to ghaley@citizensforethics.org and foia@citizensforethics.org or by mail to Grace Haley, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, P.O. Box 14596, Washington, D.C. 20044.

Sincerely,

Grace Haley
Researcher