



CITIZENS FOR
RESPONSIBILITY &
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON

May 11, 2026

BY EMAIL: FOIA@usss.dhs.gov

Kevin L. Tyrrell
FOIA Officer/Public Liaison
U.S. Secret Service FOIA Office
245 Murray Lane Building T-5
Washington, D.C. 20223

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Mr. Tyrrell:

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 Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) regulations, 6 C.F.R. § 5, *et. seq.*

Specifically, CREW requests, from January 20, 2025 to the date this request is processed:

1. Any record systems or record groupings used by or relied on by the Secret Service to record, memorialize, or track who visited Mar-a-Lago on April 25, 2026, or where such record systems or record groupings might be located.
2. Any and all materials generated, reviewed, or obtained by the Secret Service in the course of background checks or similar security screens for invitees to the private dinner held on May 22, 2025 at Trump National Golf Club in Potomac Falls, Virginia with President Trump (the “\$TRUMP Dinner”), including any screen of the invitees’ “wallet for KYC & compliance purposes” as described in the invitation to the dinner.¹
3. Any and all documents reflecting the criteria used by the Secret Service to evaluate if any invitee to the \$TRUMP Dinner would be admitted or excluded from the dinner based on information considered in the course of a background check or similar security screening.
4. Any and all communications between the Secret Service and any person requesting any deviation from the Secret Service’s legal obligations or standard procedures regarding security for the \$Trump Dinner.

¹The public invitation can be found at <https://web.archive.org/web/20250504004210/https://gettrumpmemes.com/dinner.html>. The response therein to the frequently asked question “Do I need a background check?” states, “Once you are selected, you will need to pass a background check. We will also screen your wallet for KYC & compliance purposes. You are having Dinner with the President of the USA!”

The above request excludes agency records consisting solely of news articles, press clippings, and other publicly-available material, so long as the records include no accompanying discussion by agency officials. The above request also excludes records pertaining to staff of the Trump National Golf Club and members of the Secret Service or law enforcement present in an official capacity.

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 May 22, 2025, President Trump held a private dinner for top holders of the \$TRUMP meme coin at his golf club outside of Washington, D.C.² First announced a month

² Michelle Conlin, Lawrence Delevingne, and Trevor Hunnicutt, Wealthy foreign crypto investors descend on President Trump's golf club for \$148 million meme coin dinner, Reuters (May 22, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-draws-global-crypto-investors-with-148-million-meme-coin-dinner-2025-05-22/>.

prior, the event was promoted by President Trump³ and drove token sales that directly benefit Trump Organization affiliates.⁴ The \$TRUMP website also dangled additional access for the top 25 invitees to the event, encouraging investors to buy more of the token as competition for top spots increased.⁵ Moreover, the invitees – many of whom funnelled millions of dollars into \$TRUMP in an attempt to gain an audience with the President⁶ – have remained largely anonymous, raising concerns related to foreign influence over matters of U.S. policy, potential emoluments violations, and opportunities for cryptocurrency industry insiders to pay for access to the President.⁷ The requested records will publicize attendees of the dinner and illuminate any visitors (foreign or otherwise) who had an opportunity to influence the President, a matter of compelling public interest.

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").

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.

³ @realDonaldTrump, X (January 17, 2025), <https://x.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1880446012168249386>

⁴ Joel Khalili, *The Real Winners of the Trump Memecoin Feeding Frenzy*, Wired (April 24, 2025), <https://www.wired.com/story/trump-memecoin-dinner-winners/>.

⁵ GetTrumpMemes (archived May 4, 2025), <https://web.archive.org/web/20250504004210/https://gettrumpmemes.com/dinner.html>.

⁶ Kevin Collier, *Trump's crypto dinner cost over \$1 million per seat on average*, NBC News (May 21, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/crypto/trumps-crypto-dinner-cost-1-million-seat-average-rcna207802>.

⁷ Casten, *Smith Demand DOJ Investigation Into Trump Crypto Dinner* (May 22, 2025), <https://casten.house.gov/media/press-releases/casten-smith-demand-doj-investigation-into-trump-crypto-dinner>.

May 11, 2026

Page 4

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 [REDACTED] and foia@citizensforethics.org or call me at [REDACTED]. 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 [REDACTED] and foia@citizensforethics.org or by mail to Olivia Buckley, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, P.O. Box 14596, Washington, D.C. 20044.

Sincerely,

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

Olivia Buckley
Research Associate