

CREW | citizens for responsibility and ethics in washington

October 12, 2017

Information Officer
Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department
50 N. Alabama Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: Request for Records Under the Indiana Open Records Law

Dear Sir/Madam:

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) makes this request for records pursuant to the Indiana Open Records Law, I.C. § 5-14-3.

Specifically, CREW requests copies of all records concerning the costs to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department of providing a police escort and any other protection to Vice President Mike Pence and his entourage while he visited Indianapolis on Sunday, October 8, 2017, to attend the Indianapolis Colt’s football game. Published photographs and footage of the Vice President’s Indianapolis trip show squad cars accompanying him that appear to be those of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

CREW requests records of any kind as defined in I.C. § 5-14-3-2, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical material. If it is your position that any portion of the requested record is exempt from disclosure, please identify the specific portion or portions that are exempt and the statutory basis for the withholding.

By way of background, Vice President Pence’s trip to Indianapolis last Sunday to attend a football game has been widely criticized as a political stunt undertaken at the urging of President Donald Trump and likely to increase political giving at the fundraising event the Vice President attended in Los Angeles after a brief appearance at the game. Public attention has focused on the cost of this travel, with CNN estimating the air travel alone cost about \$242,500.¹ In addition, the Vice President’s attendance at such a widely-attended event caused great disruption and a cost to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department of providing police protection during the Vice President’s visit. The requested records will shed further light on the costs associated with this trip that federal and state taxpayers must bear, and the divergence of resources for local entities like the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

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 reducing the influence of money on politics. CREW intends to analyze the information

¹ Rene Marsh, *The Price Tag for Pence’s Trip to Indianapolis*, *CNN*, Oct. 9, 2017, available at <http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/08/politics/pence-indianapolis-flights-cost/index.html>.

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responsive to this request and to share its analysis with the public. The release of information obtained through this request is not in CREW's financial interest.

Please advise us if the costs associated with processing this request will exceed \$50.00.

If you have any questions concerning this request, please contact me at (202) 408-5565 or aweismann@citizensforethics.org. Where possible, please produce the records in electronic format. Please send the requested records to me at aweismann@citizensforethics.org or Anne L. Weismann, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, 455 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anne L. Weismann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anne L. Weismann
Chief FOIA Counsel