

February 3, 2020

By facsimile: (202) 514-1009

Kerri Kupec
Director, Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Re: Request for Expedition of Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Ms. Kupec;

Pursuant to Department of Justice (“DOJ”) regulations, 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(2), Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) requests that you authorize the expedition of a Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) request CREW made today to the Executive Office for United States Attorneys. I have enclosed a copy of this request.

The FOIA request seeks copies of all records of communications between President Trump, White House employees, or personal attorneys to President Trump and the Department of Justice regarding investigations, requests for investigations, or other inquiries concerning past and current candidates for president in the 2020 election. The term “past and current candidates for president in the 2020 election” means Michael Bennet, Joe Biden, Michael Bloomberg, Cory Booker, Steve Bullock, Pete Buttigieg, Julian Castro, Bill De Blasio, Roque De La Fuente, John Delaney, Tulsi Gabbard, Kirsten Gillibrand, Kamala Harris, John Hickenlooper, Jay Inslee, Amy Klobuchar, Wayne Meesam, Seth Moulton, Richard Ojeda, Beto O’Rourke, Deval Patrick, Tim Ryan, Bernie Sanders, Mark Sanford, Joe Sestak, Tom Steyer, Eric Swalwell, Joe Walsh, Elizabeth Warren, William (Bill) F. Weld, Marianne Williamson, and Andrew Yang. CREW has requested that DOJ search the records of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, including but not limited to the Office of United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut John H. Durham, and the Office of the United States Attorney of Utah John W. Huber.

CREW seeks expedition because the subject matter of the request is of widespread and exceptional media interest. Additionally, the requested information involves possible questions about the government’s integrity, which clearly affect public confidence. President Trump’s phone call with President Zelensky in July 2019 has been the subject of enormous media interest,¹ and has led to his impeachment. The evidence available to date also suggests the president’s attempts to pressure the Ukrainian government to assist him in digging up dirt on his

¹ See, e.g., Matthew Choi, *Trump: I was asking Zelensky to help America, not me*, *Politico*, December 4, 2019, available at <https://www.politico.com/news/2019/12/04/trump-zelensky-us-help-075997>; Charlie Savage & Adam Goldman, *The Trump-Zelensky Phone Call: Key Takeaways From Two New Documents*, *The New York Times*, September 25, 2019, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/25/us/politics/Ukraine-phone-call-transcript.html>; Morgan Chalfant & Brett Samuels, *White House releases rough transcript of*

political opponent is not the only instance where the president has abused the power of his office in this way.

It is crucial that the American public are informed fully about the extent to which President Trump has engaged in similar conduct within his own government. The public has a strong interest in obtaining records of communications between President Trump, White House employees, or personal attorneys to President Trump and the Department of Justice regarding investigations, requests for investigations, or other inquiries regarding past and current candidates for President in the 2020 election. President Trump is facing impeachment in-part for his request that a foreign government investigate a campaign rival. It is therefore imperative that the public has access to this information in an expedited manner to ensure that our government is held accountable if it has under the direction of President Trump, obstructed free and fair elections. CREW's request will ensure the public's right to this information is fully realized by the American public.

CREW's primary purpose is to inform and educate the public about the activities of government officials and those who influence public officials. Toward that end, CREW uses statutes like the FOIA to gather information the public needs to hold public officials accountable. The requests for which CREW seeks expedition will further those goals.

I certify the following is true and correct.

Sincerely,



Hajar I. Hammado
Policy Associate

Encl.

early Trump-Ukraine call minutes before impeachment hearing, *The Hill*, November 15, 2019, available at <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/470609-white-house-releases-call-of-early-trump-call-to-ukraine-president>; Toluse Olorunnipa, White House official directed hold on Ukraine aid shortly after Trump's July 25 call with Zelensky, *The Washington Post*, December 22, 2019, available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/white-house-official-directed-hold-on-ukraine-aid-shortly-after-trumps-july-25-call-with-zelensky/2019/12/22/7af19ae0-24d5-11ea-a14c-412f7b9e2717_story.html; Sara Boboltz, Emails Show White House Moved To Halt Ukraine Aid Right After 'Perfect Call', *Huffpost*, December 21, 2019, available at https://www.huffpost.com/entry/email-white-house-ukraine-aid-congress-call-trump-zelensky_n_5dfe8757e4B0843d35fcf649; Andrew Prokop, New testimony raises questions about the White House "transcript" of Trump's phone call with Ukraine's president, *Vox News*, October 30, 2019, available at <https://www.vox.com/2019/10/30/20939822/trump-ukraine-transcript-ellipses-vindman-impeachment-inquiry>.