

June 11, 2020

By Email: rsmith@eventsdc.com

Reginald L. Smith
Deputy General Counsel
Events DC
801 Mount Vernon Place NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) makes this request for records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), Subchapter II of the Code of the District of Columbia.

Specifically, CREW seeks all records relating to any request from the Trump International Hotel DC for a grant from the Events DC Hotel Relief Package. This request includes without limitation any application for such a grant by the Trump Organization, as well as any records reflecting Events DC’s approval of any such application.

Events DC is giving away \$18 million in grants for local restaurants, hotel industry, destination marketing, and undocumented workers in hospitality and tourism that have been impacted by COVID19 pandemic. \$5 million of this DC Events Hotel Relief Package is delineated for hotel worker and operator relief and recovery efforts.¹ “The purpose of the program is to provide critical financial assistance to hotels, bed & breakfasts, inns, and motels in Washington, DC that have been impacted by the pandemic.”² For those establishments that are approved, this grant gives a minimum of \$144 per room in funds. The Trump International Hotel DC is eligible for a grant from the DC Events Hotel Relief Package, and with 263 rooms, can receive a minimum of \$37,872.

¹ Events DC Announces \$18 Million Hospitality and Tourism Relief Package Amid COVID-19 Pandemic, *Events DC*, April 9, 2020, available at [http://www.eventsdc.com/NewsRoom/PressReleases/EVENTS-DC-ANNOUNCES-\\$18-MILLION-HOSPITALY-AND-TOUR.aspx](http://www.eventsdc.com/NewsRoom/PressReleases/EVENTS-DC-ANNOUNCES-$18-MILLION-HOSPITALY-AND-TOUR.aspx)

² Hotel Relief Package: Hotel Operator Application, *Mail Chimp*, available at <https://mailchi.mp/eventsdc.com/hotel-relief-package>

If the Trump International Hotel DC has applied for a grant from the Events DC Hotel Relief Package, a copy of the application must be released so that American taxpayers are aware of how the Trump Organization is benefiting from efforts to assist small businesses. The public has the right to know if the President of the United States is utilizing resources for his personal gain.

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, as well as those who were cc'ed or bcc'ed on any emails.

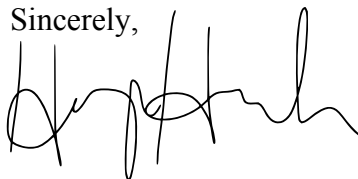
If it is your position any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, Subchapter II requires you to disclose which exemption of the FOIA permits the withholding. CREW requests that you state in writing and with particularity the reasons for any conclusion that a record is exempt or confidential. If some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, you are required to redact those portions and produce the remainder of the requested records. DC Code § 2-534(b).

CREW agrees to pay up to \$100 for copies of the requested records. If copying fees are expected to exceed this amount, please contact me at hhammado@citizensforethics.org.

Conclusion

If you have any questions about this request or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please contact me at (909) 524-5035 or hhammado@citizensforethics.org. Where possible, please produce records in electronic format. Please send the requested records to me either at hhammado@citizensforethics.org or Hajar I. Hammado, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, 1101 K Street, N.W., Suite 201, Washington, D.C. 20005. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Hajar Hammado
Policy Associate