

May 28, 2019

BY EMAIL: cityclerk@cityofdoral.com

Information Officer
Doral Government Center
1st Floor City Clerk's Office
8401 NW 53 Terrace, Doral FL 33166

Re: Request for Records Under Florida Public Records Law

Dear Sir/Madam:

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington ("CREW") makes this request for records pursuant to Florida Public Records Law, Section §119.07, F.S.

Specifically, CREW requests:

1. All communications between March 1, 2020 and the date this request is processed that mention or refer to Mar-a-Lago, Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Trump National Golf Club in Jupiter, or Trump National Doral.
2. All communications between March 1, 2020 and the date this request is processed sent to or received by representatives of the Trump Organization.

CREW requests records of any kind as defined in Section §119.011(1), F.S., including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical material. If it is your position any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, please identify the specific portion or portions that are exempt and the statutory basis for the withholding.

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.

The requested records may shed light on whether representatives from President Trump's private businesses contacted local officials about reopening during the coronavirus crisis, and may show officials' reactions to these requests. They may also show whether businesses owned by President Trump sought financial assistance from the local government.

President Donald Trump has advocated for businesses to be allowed to reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ President Trump has a vested financial interest in businesses reopening, since he owns private businesses in the hospitality industry. According to the Wall Street Journal, the pandemic has cost “more than a million dollars in lost revenue daily” to Trump Organization properties across the country.² Florida has been aggressive to reopen businesses, relative to other states, and businesses owned by President Trump in Florida have begun to reopen.³

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 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.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform CREW if the cost will exceed \$100. However, CREW also requests a waiver of all fees because the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest. The public is entitled to information concerning the president’s private business seeking assistance from local government in Florida. Further, this information is not being sought for commercial purposes. Please advise us if the costs associated with processing this request will exceed \$100.00.

If you have any questions about this request or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please contact me at wdavis@citizensforethics.org. Where possible, please produce records in electronic format. Please send the requested records to me in electronic form at wdavis@citizensforethics.org. If it’s not possible to produce them electronically, please contact me at that email, and I will provide a mailing address. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Walker Davis

¹ See <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1255130302655148033>.

² Brian Spegele, Craig Karmin and Jenny Strasburg, Coronavirus Costing Trump Properties Over \$1 Million Daily in Lost Revenue, *The Wall Street Journal*, Apr. 2, 2020, available at <https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus-costing-trump-properties-over-1-million-daily-in-lost-revenue-11585823401>.

³ See for example, Kristen Holmes, Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort to partially reopen Saturday, *CNN*, May 14, 2020, available at <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/14/politics/trump-mar-a-lago-reopening/index.html>.

Research Manager