

DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

January 4, 2021

Ref: FOIA# 21-01719-F

Mr. Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030-15th St. NW Ste. B255
Washington, DC 20005
AmericanOversight.org.

Dear Mr. Evers,

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your request for records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. §552. Your request was received in the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs on December 11, 2020

Specifically, you requested:

“The outbreak of the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and the disease it causes, COVID-19, has been declared a public health emergency at both the national and international levels.¹ Since late 2019, the virus has spread across the globe, sickened more than 12 million people, and resulted in hundreds-of-thousands of deaths. ² American Oversight seeks records with the potential to shed light on the activities of the leaders of your agency during the spread of, and response to, the coronavirus pandemic. Requested Records American Oversight requests that your agency produce the following records within twenty business days:

“All calendars and calendar entries for the agency officials, including any calendars maintained on their behalf, reflecting events that took place from January 1, 2020 to the date the search is conducted. For calendar entries created in Outlook or similar programs, the documents should be produced in “memo” form to include all invitees, any notes, and all attachments. Please do not limit your search to Outlook calendars—we request the production of any calendar—paper or electronic, whether on government-issued or personal devices—used to track or coordinate how these individuals allocate their time on agency business. The search should include any calendars associated with an agency official’s individual email account, as well as any official calendars maintained for the official, including by his or her administrative assistant or scheduler”

At the conclusion of the search, there were no calendar information for the period that were determined to be responsive to your request. Please note that Brooks D. Tucker was the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs from January 2020 to April 28, 2020 then assumed the position of Acting Chief of Staff within the Secretary's Office.

This request was processed by the undersigned. You have the right to appeal this response within 90 days of the date of this communication if you do not agree with this determination.

You may appeal in writing to:

Department of Veterans Affairs
General Counsel Office (024)
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20420

You may also submit your appeal via facsimile to (202) 273-6388 or via email to ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov. If you do appeal this determination, you must specify which part of the determination you are appealing. Please include a copy of your request and my letter with your appeal, and clearly state why you disagree with this determination. If you mail your appeal, both the front of the envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "FOIA Appeal". Please also include a daytime telephone number in case the Office of General Counsel needs additional information.

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Please refer to **FOIA #21-01719-F** in your response. Be sure to include a copy of this letter, your request, and the reason for your appeal. You may also include a daytime phone in case the General Counsel needs additional information.

This concludes the OCLA's response to your request.

Sincerely,

/s/

Regina Mack-Abney
FOIA Officer
Office of Congressional
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Please refer to FOIA #20-08642-F in your response. Be sure to include a copy of this letter, your request, and the reason for your appeal. You may also include a daytime phone in case the General Counsel needs additional information.

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