



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Interior Region 1- National Capital Area
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FOIA 2020-002176

May 26, 2021

Austin R Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street N.W. Suite B255
Washington, D.C. 20005
foia@americanoversight.org

Dear Requester:

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Requests Dated August 24, 2020
National Park Service (NPS) *re: White House Rose Garden Donor/Donations*

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request in which you requested: “Records sufficient to identify any donors to the recent redesigning the White House Rose Garden, as well as the amount donors gave and the date of their donations. Please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2019 to the date the search is conducted.”

The following response was prepared by the National Capital Area –Region 1 through consultation with President’s Park. The FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, generally provides that the Government shall make documents available to the public for inspection and copying to the widest extent possible. However, certain classes of documents may be exempt. The FOIA does not require that new records be created in response to a request and only applies to records in existence at the time the request is received. Additionally, because the NPS creates and maintains law enforcement records, we are required by the Department of Justice to provide the following information, even though it may or may not apply to your specific request. Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that we are required to give all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

After a thorough search of our files, it has been determined that the National Park Service has **no records** responsive to your request.

Christopher Watts, National Park Service, FOIA Officer is responsible for this denial.

INTERIOR REGION 1 • NORTH ATLANTIC-APPALACHIAN

CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, KENTUCKY, MAINE, MARYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS,
NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT,
VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA

We do not bill requesters for FOIA processing fees when their fees are less than \$50.00, because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected. See [43 C.F.R. § 2.37\(g\)](#). ***Therefore, there is no billable fee for the processing of this request.***

Pursuant to 43 CFR § 2.57 you may appeal this response to the Department's FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you choose to appeal, the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer must receive your FOIA appeal **no later than 90 workdays** from the date of this letter. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

Your appeal must be made in writing. You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service, fax, or email. All communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words: "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." You must include an explanation of why you believe the National Park Service's response is in error. You must also include with your appeal copies of all correspondence between you and the National Park Service concerning your FOIA request, including your original FOIA request and National Park Service's response. Failure to include with your appeal all correspondence between you and National Park Service will result in the Department's rejection of your appeal, unless the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer determines (in the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer's sole discretion) that good cause exists to accept the defective appeal.

Please include your name and daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address and fax number (if available) in case the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification of your appeal.

DOI FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office Contact Information

Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor
1849 C Street, N.W.
MS-6556 MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240
Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office
Telephone: 202-208-5339
Fax: 202-208-6677
Email: FOIA.Appeals@sol.doi.gov

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001

E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer.

We appreciate your interest in the National Park Service. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at christopher_watts@nps.gov.

Sincerely,



Christopher Watts
Freedom of Information Act Officer
National Capital Area- Region 1