



OFFICE OF MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT

CITY OF CHICAGO

November 4, 2020

Austin Evers
American Oversight
Via email at records@americanoversight.org

Dear Mr. Evers,

On behalf of the City of Chicago Office of the Mayor ("Mayor's Office"), I am responding to your Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request which was dated August 31, 2020 and received in our offices on the same day. The Mayor's Office took a 5-day extension to your request on September 8, 2020. You requested:

Requesting All email communications (including emails and email attachments) sent by 1) Mayor Lightfoot, Chief of Staff Maurice Classen, or Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Samantha Fields, to 2) anyone communicating from an email address ending in eop.gov.

Please provide all responsive records from July 15, 2020, through the date the search is conducted.

In an effort to accommodate your office and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited its request to emails sent by the above officials. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both an official's response to an email from an eop.gov email address and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

Please find the attached records responsive to your request

You have the right to have a denial reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706, (877) 299-3642. You also have the right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court.

Sincerely,

Tom Skelton
FOIA Officer – Mayor's Office

121 NORTH LASALLE STREET, SUITE 500, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

From: [Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO](#)
To: [Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO](#)
Cc: [Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO](#); [Friedman, Haley Z. EOP/WHO](#); [Campana, Ariella M. EOP/WHO](#)
Subject: INVITE: National White House Briefing Call Wednesday
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 5:31:41 PM

The White House



Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

State, Local, and Tribal Leaders –

On **Wednesday, July 22, at 1:00 PM Eastern Time**, please join the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs for a national COVID-19 briefing call. We will be joined by Senior Administration Officials from the White House Coronavirus Task Force, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), and U.S. Department of Education. We appreciate your continued partnership and coordination in this whole-of-government, all-of-America response to COVID-19. Below, please find registration information and a list of Administration participants.

Briefing Call Registration

Date: Wednesday, July 22

Time: 1:00 PM Eastern Time (please note start time and time zone)

Call-In Registration: [CLICK HERE](#)

Note: Call-in lines are limited. RSVP's will be allocated in the order they are received. Please register only if you are able to join the call.

Administration Participants *subject to change

- Ambassador Deborah Birx, *White House Coronavirus Task Force Coordinator*
- Seema Verma, *Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)*
- Eric Hargan, *Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*
- Mitchell "Mick" Zais, *Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education*
- Brian Montgomery, *Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*

Sincerely,

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Zach Swint

The White House

Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

COVID-19: Important Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Officials

- **Guidelines for Opening Up America Again:** On April 16, President Trump and the White House Coronavirus Task Force unveiled [guidelines](#) (*download [here](#)*) for the reopening of America. Developed by the top medical experts from across the Government and based on verifiable metrics regarding the situation on the ground, the guidelines outline a phased return to reopening and include specific steps for State, Local, and Tribal officials to follow in tailoring their response. The guidelines also set clear benchmarks on new cases, testing, and hospital resources for States to meet to proceed toward a phased reopening. In the days and weeks ahead, the Administration plans to continue robust coordination and outreach with State, Local, and Tribal leaders as we collectively work to reopen the country.
- **Opening Up America Again Testing Overview and Testing Blueprint:** On April 27, President Trump and the White House Coronavirus Task Force unveiled the Opening Up American Again [Testing Overview](#) and [Testing Blueprint](#) designed to facilitate State development and implementation of the robust testing plans and rapid response programs described in the President's *Opening Up America Again Guidelines*. The *Testing Blueprint* sets forth the partnership between Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, along with the private-sector and professional associations, all of which will play important roles in meeting the Nation's testing needs.
- **Up-To-Date Information:** The most up-to-date, verified information and guidance can be found via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 website – www.coronavirus.gov. The Coronavirus Task Force holds frequent briefings, which can be viewed live [here](#).
- **COVID-19 Response and Recovery Primer:** Response and recovery efforts are locally executed, state managed, and federally supported. It is important that requests for assistance, including for critical supplies, get routed through the proper channels as soon as possible. Learn more about the response and recovery process via this important resource – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: Response and Recovery Through Federal-State-Local-Tribal Partnership](#). FEMA's public assistance guidance for COVID-

19 response efforts can be found [here](#). Guidance for Tribal Governments can be found [here](#).

- **Critical Infrastructure Workforce Guidelines:** On March 16th, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued updated [critical infrastructure guidance](#) in response to the COVID-19 emergency. DHS continues to work with stakeholders in the critical infrastructure community to update the advisory list if necessary as the Nation's response to COVID-19 evolves. The guidance, and accompanying list, is intended to help State, local, tribal and territorial officials as they work to protect their communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. The list is advisory in nature and is not a federal directive or standard.
- **Rural Resource Guide:** USDA and Federal partners have programs that can be used to provide immediate and long term assistance to rural communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs can support recovery efforts for rural residents, businesses, and communities. USDA developed a [resource guide](#) for State, Local, and Tribal leaders, and other stakeholders.
- **Coronavirus Fact vs. Myth:** Rumors can easily circulate within communities during a crisis. FEMA setup a [website](#) to help the public distinguish between rumors and facts regarding the response to the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Fraud & Scam Protection:** The Department of Justice is remaining vigilant in detecting, investigating, and prosecuting wrongdoing related to the crisis. Find out how you can protect yourself and helpful resources on DOJ's Coronavirus Fraud Prevention [website](#). The Federal Trade Commission has also established a [website](#) with helpful information to help consumers avoid coronavirus-related scams.
- **Social Media Resources:** Download the [Apple COVID-19 Screening Tool](#). Follow the White House on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Also follow HHS ([Twitter/Facebook](#)) and CDC ([Twitter/Facebook](#)) You can also find informational videos from Coronavirus Task Force members on mitigation, social distancing, etc. on the White House's [YouTube](#) page.
- **Mental Health Resources:** Natural disasters – including such pandemics as the coronavirus outbreak – can be overwhelming and also can seriously affect emotional health. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's (SAMHSA) Disaster Distress Helpline – 1-800-985-5990 (or text TalkWithUs to 66746) – provides 24/7, 365-day-a-year crisis counseling and support to anyone who is seeking help in coping with the mental or emotional effects caused by developments related to the coronavirus pandemic. Learn more about the Disaster Distress Helpline [here](#).
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Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), which leads and coordinates the development, implementation, and assessment of U.S. drug policy, released a [fact sheet](#) that contains information on Federal actions to expand telemedicine and e-prescribing, to increase flexibility for treatment with methadone and buprenorphine, to improve access to prescribed controlled substances, and to expand assistance to rural areas.

- **Administration Actions and Federal Agency Resources:** USA.gov is cataloging all U.S. government activities related to coronavirus. From actions on health and safety to travel, immigration, and transportation to education, find pertinent actions [here](#). Each Federal Agency has also established a dedicated coronavirus website, where you can find important information and guidance. They include: Health and Human Services ([HHS](#)), Centers of Medicare and Medicaid ([CMS](#)), Food and Drug Administration ([FDA](#)), Department of Education ([DoED](#)), Department of Agriculture ([USDA](#)), Small Business Administration ([SBA](#)), Department of Labor ([DOL](#)), Department of Homeland Security ([DHS](#)), Department of State ([DOS](#)), Department of Veterans Affairs ([VA](#)), Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#)), Department of Energy ([DOE](#)), Department of Commerce ([DOC](#)), Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)), Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)), Department of the Treasury ([USDT](#)), Internal Revenue Service ([IRS](#)), Office of the Director of National Intelligence ([ODNI](#)), and U.S. Election Assistance Commission ([EAC](#)).

Office of Intergovernmental Affairs · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

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From: [Alyssa Fisher](#)
To: [William Crozer \(william.f.crozer@who.eop.gov\)](mailto:william.f.crozer@who.eop.gov)
Cc: [Maurice Classen](#)
Subject: letter to the President from Mayor Lightfoot
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 4:18:00 PM
Attachments: [Trump Letter 7.20.20 FINAL.pdf](#)

Hello William,
Attached please find a letter from Mayor Lightfoot to President Trump.
Thank you,
Alyssa Fisher

This e-mail, and any attachments thereto, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail (or the person responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, printing or copying of this e-mail, and any attachment thereto, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please respond to the individual sending the message, and permanently delete the original and any copy of any e-mail and printout thereof.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

July 20, 2020

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am responding again to your letter from June 26th, 2020, and recent statements from you and members of your Administration regarding offers of federal assistance to the City of Chicago. Despite the misplaced and incendiary rhetoric from you and your staff which is divisive and unhelpful, I will take you at your word that you want to assist the City in its effort to reduce violence so I will be specific about what we need from the federal government to make us safer.

Let me state clearly and proudly that it is my honor and privilege to serve the people of Chicago. Each life lost in our city breaks my heart and is felt personally both as a tragedy by the family who has lost a brother, sister, mother, father, or child and by every resident.

What we have here in Chicago—and what dozens of American cities alike are facing—requires leadership at all levels of government. It requires genuine efforts to unite us and collaborate, not more conflict and division. It requires focus and resources in two major areas of public health: on guns and COVID-19, both of which disproportionately impact our Black and brown residents. I have led a city response to keep Chicagoans safe, and we have curbed the impact of COVID-19, but our residents and our national economy are cracking. To address these challenges, I have identified the following areas in which the federal government has the unique ability to step up.

Common-sense gun safety reform. We need you, as President, to take a leadership role in enacting meaningful and common-sense gun control legislation, which you have so far refused to do. One of our primary problems with addressing gun violence in Chicago is there are too many illegal guns that flood our streets year after year, seemingly without end. Most of the guns are not originating in Chicago: sixty percent of illegal firearms recovered in Chicago come from outside of Illinois. They are coming from neighboring states that have very relaxed gun ownership laws, and from federally licensed gun dealers who repeatedly sell guns that end up associated with violent crime within three years or less of sale. This means that Chicago and Illinois cannot make the needed change on its own. Federal support and intervention are needed in the following ways:

1. We need universal background checks and closure on simple loopholes, a ban on assault weapons, and policies that keep guns out of the hands of people who are dangerous to themselves and others as well as promoting gun safety.
2. Additionally, adequate federal enforcement of existing laws is critical, including supporting federal efforts to investigate federally licensed gun dealers, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) which has been constrained by the gun lobby. Year after year, the Chicago Police Department takes more guns off the street than NYPD and LAPD combined. In 2017, it was 8,600; in 2018 it was 9,500; in 2019 it was 10,800, and 5,296 already in 2020. Why? In part because there is an illegal gun trafficking market originating in other states and ending up on the streets of Chicago. Interstate gun trafficking requires a federal focus. It can never be adequately addressed by local law enforcement alone and requires sufficient staffing.
3. Additionally, every day, on social media platforms, illegal gun sales are happening among criminals. Our Police Department has extensive experience investigating and prosecuting these sales, but the weight of the federal government could demand a real change in behavior.
4. Finally, it would be helpful if you would authorize the provision of resources for the purchase of National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBN) machines and staffing for more firearms examiners. These two elements would be important and worthwhile investments.

Public safety support, not games. What we do not need, and what will certainly make our community less safe is secret, federal agents deployed to Chicago. Any other form of militarized assistance within our borders that would not be within our control or within the direct command of the Chicago Police Department would spell disaster. As any law enforcement official will tell you, what is needed more than anything in an operation to protect lives is a clear mission, a detailed operations plan, and a chain of command. Secret, federal agents who do not know Chicago, are unfamiliar with the unique circumstances of our neighborhoods and who would operate outside the established infrastructure of local law enforcement would not be effective, regardless of the number, and worse will foment a massive wave of opposition. Deploying resources like we have seen in Portland, Oregon, does not make residents safer, particularly when gun violence plays a significant role in Chicago's loss of life. Quite the opposite. The deployment of secret, federal agents in Portland has undermined residents' confidence in all levels of government and fomented more unrest. Such a deployment of secret, federal agents who arrest, and detain residents without any cause and then deprive those residents of due process is clearly unconstitutional. It is a bad idea and I urge you not to do it.

As a former federal prosecutor, I can attest that more federal prosecution or investigatory resources to augment existing federal violent crime suppression efforts, under the leadership and control of the U.S. Attorney, could assist in keeping communities safe. Given the urgency of the gun violence, we need federal violent crime and particularly gun cases investigated and the worthy ones charged in weeks and months, not years.

Community-based outreach. An important step in mitigating gun violence during COVID-19 as gun sales continue to rise and emergency health services are strained, we ask for your support in providing robust investment in community-based violence interventions. This includes street outreach and trauma support that sustains lifesaving community-based violence intervention

programs, retains violence interrupters, and allows for the development and replication of effective models for lifesaving violence intervention initiatives. Further, any federal funding must not be restricted because of hateful policies towards our residents such as restricting support for Sanctuary Cities that support all residents equally.

Get at the root cause through community investment. By investing in neighborhoods and addressing the root causes of gun violence, we can continue to make meaningful gains in public safety in communities throughout the city. This means focusing on the systemic issues—racial inequities, poverty, community divestment—that drive gun violence in Chicago. The violence our city is confronting is symptomatic of a larger public health and economic crisis, only exacerbated by this COVID-19 pandemic. Despite having previously managed a balanced budget, city finances are strained due to less revenue from COVID-19 safety measures and a weakened economy. One of your first acts in supporting us should be direct aid to state and local governments in the next COVID-19 relief package under consideration now in Congress. Your June 26th letter notes that Chicago received funding through the Coronavirus Relief Fund but does not mention the restrictions of having to go toward COVID-19 expenses only. What cities, towns and villages need now is flexible funds to cover shortfalls due to the COVID-19 restrictions and struggling economy, and fund essential city operations such as public safety and mental health. You have previously expressed your support for this funding to communities across the county, and I ask that you keep your original word. Additionally, as a part of the support for our neighborhoods that are suffering under the stress of COVID-related challenges, we request your assistance to our residents who are most at risk for violence involvement:

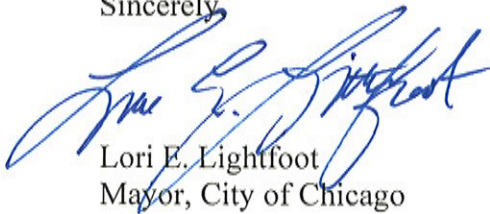
- Extend expanded Unemployment Insurance benefits to help millions get by during this economic downturn.
- Enable affordable housing, and rental assistance to provide stability for those at risk for homelessness. Your administration's budget regularly proposes elimination of the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and public housing capital fund. We are grateful that Congress acts on a bipartisan basis to restore these cuts, which assist in stabilizing our neighborhoods, which is needed now more than ever.
- End regulatory rollbacks that impact the health, safety, and well-being of Chicagoans.
- Create more opportunities for returning residents. I applaud the First Step Act, but we must do more to build our communities.
- Stitch our broken social safety net, which—as a start—means to stop attempts to claw back the Affordable Care Act.
- Stop doing more injury and harm to our immigrant and refugee communities. Every individual and every child adds value, their lives matter and instead of treating them with humanity and compassion.

In the end, we very much want to *partner* with an executive branch that respects our city, inclusive of *all* our residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, country of origin, religion, sexual orientation or ability. Partnership includes respect that you have not shown our residents as of late in mocking the level of violence that challenges Chicagoans. Please stop with the rhetoric and find the moral courage to simply support the needed actions listed above: enact common sense gun laws, partner with our law enforcement actors through providing investigative resources, deliver on community-

based resources for public safety, and invest in our neighborhoods and residents. These acts will deliver on your promise to make Chicagoans safer—not derision, mandates, or militarized forces. I would be more than happy to have my team sit down with yours to go through the actionable policy and legislative items that you can support to help make these actions a reality.

Because of the depth of these challenges, we must recognize that this will not be solved overnight, but I fight every day to ensure that it is improved. We'll continue working with Chicagoans from every neighborhood and background — from block clubs and faith groups to businesses and school communities — who have joined us hand-in-hand in our multifaceted, comprehensive approach to reducing the violence in our city.

Sincerely,



Lori E. Lightfoot
Mayor, City of Chicago