DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20223

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Program
Communications Center
245 Murray Lane, SW, Building T-5
Washington, D.C. 20223

Date: June 25, 2020

Melanie Sloan
1030 15th Street, NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

File Number: 20200544

Dear Requester:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Acts (FOIA/PA) request, originally received by the United States Secret Service (Secret Service) on February 25, 2020, for information pertaining to records to shed light on whether and to what extent the administration is retaliating against officials based on perceptions of political loyalty:

1. All email communications (email messages, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent by (1) a single individual serving in the capacity of White House Liaison or White House Advisor Chiefs of Staff or Deputies) to (2) anyone with an email address ending in .com / .net / .org / .edu / .mail / .us with a timeframe of January 1, 2019 through the date the search is conducted;

2. All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar invitations, calendar entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) of (1) anyone serving in the capacity of White House Liaison or White House Advisor (including anyone serving as their Chiefs of Staff or Deputies) with or about (2) any of the below specified external entities or individuals:

i. Virginia "Ginni" Thomas or any person communicating on her behalf, such as Crystal Clayton
ii. Barbara Ledeen or any person communicating on her behalf
iii. Becky Norton Dunlop or any person communicating on her behalf with a timeframe of January 1, 2019, through the date the search is conducted;

3. All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or

WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar invitations, calendar entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) between (1) any political appointees* in the immediate front Office of the Secretary (or the senior-most official at your agency) as well as anyone serving in the capacity of White House Liaison or White House Advisor (including anyone serving as their Chiefs of Staff or Deputies) and (2) John McEntee, head of the Presidential Personnel Office at the White House, or anyone communicating on his behalf with a timeframe of February 1, 2020 through the date the search is conducted; and

4. All records reflecting the content of a meeting between (1) anyone serving in the capacity of White House Liaison or White House Advisor (including anyone serving as their Chiefs of Staff or Deputies) and (2) John McEntee, head of the Presidential Personnel Office at the White House, on or about February 20, 2020 including any calendar entries, emails and other written communications about the meeting, agendas, lists of meeting attendees, minutes, summaries, handwritten notes, talking points, transcripts, or materials displayed or exchanged during the meeting with a timeframe from February 1, 2020, through the date the search is conducted.

In our April 22, 2020 letter, we notified you that the U.S. Secret Service FOIA Office conducted a reasonable search and located documents potentially responsive to your request. However, after further review of these records, we determined that the documents are not responsive to your February 25, 2020 request. Therefore, there are no records pertaining to your request.

If you deem our decision an adverse determination, you may exercise your appeal rights. Should you wish to file an administrative appeal, your appeal should be made in writing and received within ninety (90) days of the date of this letter, by writing to: Freedom of Information Appeal, Deputy Director, U.S. Secret Service, Communications Center, 245 Murray Lane, S.W., Building T-5, Washington, D.C. 20223. If you choose to file an administrative appeal, please explain the basis of your appeal and reference the case number listed above.

Additionally, you have the right to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) which mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Please note that contacting the Secret Service's FOIA Program and/or OGIS **is not** an alternative to filing an administrative appeal and **does not** stop the 90-day appeal clock. You may contact OGIS at: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001. You may also reach OGIS via e-mail at ogis@nara.gov, telephone at 202-741-5770/toll free at (877) 684-6448, or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

If you need any further assistance, or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact our FOIA Public Liaison Kevin Tyrrell, at (202) 406-6370. Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to foia@usss.dhs.gov.

FOIA/PA File No. 20200544 is assigned to your request. Please refer to this file number in all future communication with this office.

Sincerely,



Kevin L. Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Act Officer
Office of Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs