BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20551

ADDRESS OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE
TO THE BOARD

May 28, 2020

Mr. Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW
Suite B255
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: *Freedom of Information Act Request No. F-2020-00128*

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is in response to your letter dated March 4, 2020, and received by the Board's Information Disclosure Section on March 5. Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552, you seek the following information from January 28, 2020, through the date of the search:[1]

> 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. Since late 2019, the virus has spread to dozens of countries, sickened tens of thousands of people, and resulted in thousands of deaths. This is a rapidly evolving situation that is demanding coordinated attention and action across the federal government. Yet the Trump administration has so far failed to ensure timely availability of testing kits for healthcare providers, prevented health experts from speaking about the growing crisis, and removed information on the spread of the virus from public health resources. … American Oversight seeks records with the potential to shed light on this matter. [Specifically, you seek:]
>
> All final talking points or background materials prepared for any congressional briefings or hearings or press engagements by the leadership officials [Chairman Jerome Powell and Vice

[1] Please be advised that the date staff initiated their search, March 10, 2020, was used as the cut-off date for your request.

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> Chairman Richard H. Clarida] at [the Federal Reserve Board] … regarding the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.

As your request advises that you are interested in receiving records with the potential to shed light on whether the Trump administration "failed to ensure [the] timely availability of testing kits …, prevented health experts from speaking about the growing crisis, and removed information on the spread of the virus from public health resources," only final talking points or background materials prepared for congressional briefings, hearings, or press engagements that were intended to convey updates on health issues related to the spread of the coronavirus outbreak were considered to be responsive to the request. Accordingly, staff searched Board records and consulted with knowledgeable staff but did not locate any documents responsive to your request.

If you believe the determination that no responsive records exist is incorrect, you may administratively appeal by writing to Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Attn: FOIA Appeals, 20th Street & Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20551; by facsimile to 202-872-7565; or electronically to FOIA-Appeals@frb.gov. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of the response to your request.[2]

Very truly yours,

Margaret McCloskey Shanks
Deputy Secretary of the Board

[2] As an alternative to an administrative appeal, you may contact the Board's FOIA Public Liaison, Ms. Candace Ambrose, at 202-452-3684 for further assistance. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services ("OGIS") at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770 or toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

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