U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Homeland Security

Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655

August 11, 2020

SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: foia@americanoversight.org

Austin Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight
Re: 2020-HQFO-00961

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the electronic final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), dated April 21, 2020, and received by this office on April 22, 2020. You are seeking 1. Records sufficient to identify which FEMA officials are: (a) serving on the White House coronavirus task force (WHCTF), and (b) serving as staff support to FEMA members of the WHCTF (including any individual who accompanies officials to task force meetings or provides briefing materials in preparation of those meetings).2. Records sufficient to identify: (a) all political appointees, and (b) the top three career officials serving on FEMA's Supply Chain Task Force.

A search of the Office of Executive Secretariat and FEMA for documents responsive to your request produced a total of 2 pages. Of those pages, I have determined that 2 pages are partially releasable entirety pursuant to Title 5 U.S.C. § 552: (b)(6), FOIA Exemption 6.

Enclosed are 2 pages with certain information withheld as described below;

FOIA Exemption 6 exempts from disclosure personnel or medical files and similar files the release of which would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. This requires a balancing of the public's right to disclosure against the individual's right to privacy. The privacy interests of the individuals in the records you have requested outweigh any minimal public interest in disclosure of the information. Any private interest you may have in that information does not factor into the aforementioned balancing test.

You have a right to appeal the above withholding determination. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 90 days of the date of this letter, to: Privacy Office, Attn: FOIA Appeals, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane, SW, Mail Stop 0655, Washington, D.C. 20528-0655, following the procedures outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations at 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.8. Your envelope and letter should be marked "FOIA Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and DHS FOIA regulations are available at www.dhs.gov/foia.

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Provisions of FOIA allow DHS to charge for processing fees, up to $25, unless you seek a waiver of fees. In this instance, because the cost is below the $25 minimum, there is no charge.

If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact the analyst below who processed your request and refer to **2020-HQFO-00961**. You may send an e-mail to foia@hq.dhs.gov, call 202-343-1743 or toll free 1-866-431-0486, or you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison in the same manner.

Additionally, you have a 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. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

James V.L.M. Holzer, I

James V.L.M. Holzer
Deputy Chief FOIA Officer

Enclosure(s): Responsive Documents, 2 pages

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(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 12:41 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Tasking/General 2020-FECS-00055

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon (b)(6)

In response to the subject FOIA task, we provide the following names:

- Names of those FEMA officials, if any, serving on the White House coronavirus task force (WHCTF);
  - **Administrator Pete Gaynor**
- FEMA officials serving as staff support to FEMA members of the WHCTF (including any individual who accompanies officials to task force meetings or provides briefing materials in preparation of those meetings);
  - **COS Eric Heighberger, Lauren Fischer, Gena Lorenz**
- The names of all political appointees and the top three career officials serving on FEMA's Supply Chain Task Force.
  - **No political appointees**
- Top three career officials serving on FEMA's Supply Chain Task Force:
  - **Real Admiral John Poloywczyk**
  - **BRGEN David Sanford**
  - **Bob Farmer (FEMA)**

Search Information Form (Please complete the following search form.)

Name(s) of Searcher(s): (b)(6)
Is Searcher (Check One): Clerical ____ Professional __X__ Managerial ____
Program Office(s): Office of the Administrator
Date(s) of Search: 4/27/2020
Total Time Searching: 60 mins
Total Time Reviewing Records: 0
Were Any Records Found?: No
If No Records Were Found, Why? (i.e. no records exist; records were destroyed in accordance with records schedule, etc.):

Withholding Recommendations:
***Total Release?**
***Recommend withholding the bracketed information? (If yes, provide an explanation):**

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: 6 May 2020 16:07:12 +0000
To: FOIA
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: FOIA Records Search Request 2020-HQFO-00961; SUSPENSE April 30, 2020

Component representatives on the Task Force is handled at the Component level. The Deputy and the Secretary were both on the WH Corona Task Force.

Respectfully,

(b)(6)
Office of the Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
(b)(6)

From: FOIA <FOIA@HQ.DHS.GOV>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:58 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: FOIA Records Search Request 2020-HQFO-00961; SUSPENSE April 30, 2020

Request for Documents for Request # '2020-HQFO-00961'. Your response due date is: 4/30/2020 12:00:00 AM Message from SENDER:

SUSPENSE April 30, 2020

RE: FOIA Request #2020-HQFO-00961, (Austin Evers)

Good Morning,

Please disregard the previous tasker with SUSPENSE DATE MAY 14.

Attached is a FOIA request for 1. Records sufficient to identify which FEMA officials are: (a) serving on the White House coronavirus task force (WHCTF), and (b) serving as staff support to FEMA members of the WHCTF (including any individual who accompanies officials to task force meetings or provides briefing materials in preparation of those meetings). 2. Records sufficient to identify: (a) all political appointees, and (b) the top three career officials serving on FEMA's Supply Chain Task Force (Date Range for Record Search: From 3/1/2020 To 4/21/2020). Please note we are only tasking on **item 2 a.** We have tasked FEMA on the other items of this request.

Due to the subject matter of the request (COVID-19), we have granted expedited handling to the request and require high priority to this tasker.

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