AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

September 8, 2025

**VIA ONLINE PORTAL**

Joe Ruel, FOIA Officer
District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency
2720 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20032
Via Online Portal

**Re: D.C. Freedom of Information Act Request**

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the District of Columbia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), D.C. Code §§ 2-531 et seq., and implementing regulations at 1 DCMR §§ 400 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

On June 14, 2025, the Trump administration hosted a military parade in Washington, D.C., to honor the U.S. Army's 250th anniversary.[1] American Oversight seeks records to shed light on the implementation of the parade, including records that highlight the parade's cost.

**Requested Records**

American Oversight requests that your agency produce the following records within fifteen business days:

1. All records reflecting any expenditures associated with the military parade held on June 14, 2025, including any expenditures related to the purchasing of equipment (such as barricades or stage fixtures) and/or the hiring of extra personnel.[2]

   To the extent your office has aggregated records sufficient to show all relevant expenses and costs, such as spreadsheets, American Oversight would accept production of such records as sufficient. To the extent your office does not have an aggregated record of these costs, American Oversight requests records reflecting these costs, such as receipts, invoices, charge card or credit card statements, and reimbursement requests.

[1] Lolita Baldor & Michelle Price, *Military Parade Rolls Through DC as 'No Kings' Protestors Across US Decry Trump*, Assoc. Press (June 14, 2025, updated 11:11 PM), https://apnews.com/article/trump-army-parade-troops-tanks-birthday-protests-4cca4da0e89908d39c820240744375a1.
[2] *Id.*

2. All records reflecting any reports, impact assessments, or analyses related to any damages or incidentals incurred by the District of Columbia as a result of the military parade on June 14, 2025.

**Fee Waiver Request**

In accordance with D.C. Code § 2-532(b), American Oversight requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. A waiver of fees for this request "is in the public interest because furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public."[3]

The general public has a significant interest in the recent military parade held by the Trump administration.[4] Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the D.C. government, including how much the Trump administration's military parade cost American taxpayers.

American Oversight is committed to transparency and makes the responses agencies provide to FOIA requests publicly available, and the general public's understanding of the government's activities would be enhanced through American Oversight's analysis and publication of these records. American Oversight's mission is to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and X (formerly Twitter).[5]

American Oversight has also demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through numerous substantive analyses posted to its website.[6] Examples reflecting this commitment to the public disclosure of documents and the creation of editorial content include the posting of records related to the organization's investigations into misconduct and corruption in state governments;[7] the posting of records related to an ethics waiver received by a senior Department of Justice attorney and an analysis of what those records demonstrated regarding the Department's process for issuing such waivers;[8] posting records received

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[3] D.C. Code § 2-532(b); *see also* DCMR § 408.10.
[4] *See* Baldor & Price, *supra* note 1.
[5] American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 94,500 followers on X (formerly Twitter). American Oversight, Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/ (last visited Sept. 4, 2025); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), https://x.com/weareoversight (last visited Sept. 4, 2025).
[6] *News*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/blog.
[7] *State Investigations*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/states.
[8] *DOJ Records Relating to Solicitor General Noel Francisco's Recusal*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/document/doj-civil-division-response-noel-

as part of American Oversight's "Audit the Wall" project to gather and analyze information related to the administration's proposed construction of a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, and analyses of what those records reveal;[9] posting records regarding potential self-dealing at the Department of Housing & Urban Development and related analysis;[10] posting records and analysis relating to the federal government's efforts to sell nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia;[11] and posting records and analysis regarding the Department of Justice's decision in response to demands from Congress to direct a U.S. Attorney to undertake a wide-ranging review and make recommendations regarding criminal investigations relating to the President's political opponents and allegations of misconduct by the Department of Justice itself and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.[12]

Finally, this request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, American Oversight does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in American Oversight's financial interest.

Accordingly, furnishing the information sought through this request can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public, and American Oversight thus qualifies for a fee waiver.

**Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records**

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics.

- In conducting your search, please understand the terms "record," "document," and "information" in their broadest sense, to include any written, typed,

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francisco-compliance; *Francisco & the Travel Ban: What We Learned from the DOJ Documents*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/francisco-the-travel-ban-what-we-learned-from-the-doj-documents.

[9] *See generally Audit the Wall*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/audit-the-wall; *see, e.g.*, *Border Wall Investigation Report: No Plans, No Funding, No Timeline, No Wall*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/border-wall-investigation-report-no-plans-no-funding-no-timeline-no-wall.

[10] *Documents Reveal Ben Carson Jr.'s Attempts to Use His Influence at HUD to Help His Business*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/documents-reveal-ben-carson-jr-s-attempts-to-use-his-influence-at-hud-to-help-his-business.

[11] *Investigating the Trump Administration's Efforts to Sell Nuclear Technology to Saudi Arabia*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigating-the-trump-administrations-efforts-to-sell-nuclear-technology-to-saudi-arabia.

[12] *Sessions' Letter Shows DOJ Acted on Trump's Authoritarian Demand to Investigate Clinton*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/sessions-letter.

recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind. We seek records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, as well as letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations or discussions.

- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.

- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages.

- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.

- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

**Conclusion**

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not

understand any part of this request, please contact Ben Sparks at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 873-1741. Also, if American Oversight's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making such a determination.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Ben Sparks*
Ben Sparks
on behalf of
American Oversight