AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

January 20, 2026

VIA ONLINE PORTAL

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attn: Initial Processing Operations Unit
Record/Information Dissemination Section
200 Constitution Dr.
Winchester, VA 22602
Via Online Portal

Re: Expedited Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the implementing regulations of your agency, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

On January 7, 2026, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent killed Renee Nicole Good, an unarmed U.S. citizen, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.[1] Following this incident, President Trump and Trump Administration officials repeatedly spread falsehoods about Good and her interaction with the ICE agent.[2] The day after, on January 8, 2026, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents shot two people at a traffic stop in Portland, Oregon, escalating concerns about use of force by federal immigration enforcement agents.[3] White House officials have reportedly expressed concern about the Administration's response to Good's killing, including fears that public statements from officials have risked undermining public confidence in the investigation and immigration officials.[4] American Oversight seeks records with the

[1] *See, e.g.*, Hannah Ziegler et al., *What We Know About the Fatal ICE Shooting in Minneapolis*, N.Y. Times (updated Jan. 12, 2026, 3:36 AM), https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/07/us/ice-shooting-minneapolis-renee-good.html.
[2] *See, e.g.*, Robert Mackey, *Trump Repeats Baseless Claim that Renee Good Was Part of 'Leftwing Network' of Paid Agitators*, Guardian (Jan. 9, 2026, 9:44 PM), https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/09/trump-repeats-baseless-claim-renee-nicole-good; Aaron C. Davis & Jonathan Baran, *Video Shows ICE Agent in Minneapolis Fired at Driver as Vehicle Veered Past Him*, Wash. Post, Jan. 8, 2026, https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2026/01/08/video-ice-shooting-minneapolis/.
[3] *See, e.g.*, Anna Griffin et al., *Federal Agents Shoot 2 During Traffic Stop in Portland, Ore.*, N.Y. Times, Jan. 8, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/08/us/politics/federal-agents-shooting-portland.html.
[4] *See, e.g.*, Myah Ward, *'Highly Problematic': Trump Admin Faces Internal Doubts Over ICE Shooting Response*, Politico (Jan. 9, 2026, 5:59 PM),

potential to shed light on coordination between federal officials and the White House in the aftermath of the killing of Renee Nicole Good.

Requested Records

American Oversight seeks expedited review of this request for the reasons identified below and requests that your agency produce the following records as soon as practicable, and at least within twenty business days:

1. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between any of the officials listed below, and any representative of the White House Office (who.eop.gov).

   Federal Bureau of Investigation Officials:
   i. Kash Patel, Director
   ii. Andrew Bailey, Deputy Director
   iii. Anyone serving as Chief of Staff to the Director
   iv. Anyone serving as Senior Advisor to the Director

2. All text messages (including complete text message threads or conversations) and messages on messaging platforms (such as Signal, Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, X (formerly Twitter) direct messages, Facebook messages, Microsoft Teams messages, WhatsApp, Telegram, Parler, Mattermost, Wickr, TeleMessage, TM SGNL or any app that can interface with an app such as those listed or otherwise borrow its technology) between any of the officials listed above in part 1, and any representative of the White House Office.

   American Oversight requests that all images, videos, audio recordings, or other attachments regarding official government business shared via text message and/or messaging platforms be produced in response to this request. To the extent any hyperlinks and/or URLs were shared via text message and/or messaging platforms, American Oversight requests records in a form that displays the full URL.

For both parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from January 7, 2026, through January 9, 2026.

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's regulations, American Oversight requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government

https://www.politico.com/news/2026/01/09/highly-problematic-trump-admin-faces-internal-doubts-over-ice-shooting-response-00720663.

procedures by the general public in a significant way. Moreover, the request is for non-commercial purposes.

American Oversight requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of operations or activities of the government."[5] The public has a significant interest in the Trump administration's response to an ICE agent killing Renee Nicole Good in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 7, 2026.[6] Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the federal government, including the role of the White House in responding to this incident. American Oversight is committed to transparency and makes the responses agencies provide to FOIA requests publicly available, and the public's understanding of the government's activities would be enhanced through American Oversight's analysis and publication of these records.

This request "is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester."[7] In fact, 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 commercial interest. 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).[8]

American Oversight has also demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website.[9] Examples reflecting this commitment include the posting of records related to the first Trump Administration's contacts with Ukraine and analyses of those contacts;[10] posting records and editorial content about the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic;[11] posting records received as part of American

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[5] 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).
[6] *See supra* note 1.
[7] 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).
[8] American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 94,200 followers on X (formerly Twitter). American Oversight, Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/ (last visited Jan. 20, 2026); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), https://x.com/weareoversight (last visited Jan. 20, 2026).
[9] *See generally News*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/blog.
[10] *Trump Administration's Contacts with Ukraine*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-contacts-with-ukraine.
[11] *See generally The Trump Administration's Response to Coronavirus*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-response-to-coronavirus; *see, e.g., CDC Calendars from 2018 and 2019: Pandemic-Related*

Oversight's "Audit the Wall" project to gather and analyze information related to the first Trump administration's proposed construction of a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, and analyses of what those records reveal;[12] 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;[13] and posting records and analysis of federal officials' use of taxpayer dollars to charter private aircraft or use government planes for unofficial business.[14]

Accordingly, American Oversight qualifies for a fee waiver.

Application for Expedited Processing

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(1) and 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1), American Oversight requests that your agency expedite the processing of this request.

I certify to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief that the information requested is urgently needed in order to inform the public concerning actual or alleged government activity.[15] On January 7, 2026, an ICE agent killed Renee Nicole Good, an unarmed U.S. citizen, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.[16] Numerous videos of the shooting have circulated widely in the aftermath, with differing opinions on what occurred during the fatal shooting.[17] On January 8, 2026, CBP agents shot and wounded

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Briefings and Meetings, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/cdc-calendars-from-2018-and-2019-pandemic-related-briefings-and-meetings.

[12] *See generally Audit the Wall*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/audit-the-wall; *see, e.g.*, *Audit the Wall: No Plans, No Funding, No Timeline, No Wall*, American Oversight, https://americanoversight.org/audit-the-wall-no-plans-funding-or-timeline-and-no-wall/.

[13] *DOJ Records Relating to Solicitor General Noel Francisco's Recusal*, American Oversight, https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/25544090-doj-records-relating-to-solicitor-general-noel-franciscos-recusal-american-oversight; *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.

[14] *See generally Swamp Airlines: Chartered Jets at Taxpayer Expense*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/swamp-airlines-private-jets-taxpayer-expense; *see, e.g.*, *New Information on Pompeo's 2017 Trips to His Home State*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/new-information-on-pompeos-2017-trips-to-his-home-state.

[15] 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(ii).

[16] *See, e.g.*, Susan-Elizabeth Littlefield, *A Look Back at the Killing of Renee Good and the Historic Days that Followed in Minneapolis*, CBS (Jan. 12, 2026, 7:13 AM), https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/renee-good-ice-shooting-timeline-minneapolis/.

[17] *See, e.g.*, Rebecca Santan et al., *New Video of Fatal Minnesota ICE Shooting, from Officer's Perspective, Brings Fresh Scrutiny*, Assoc. Press (updated Jan. 9, 2026, 11:57 PM), https://apnews.com/article/minnesota-immigration-enforcement-crackdown-woman-

two people in Portland, Oregon, raising additional concerns about the use of force by immigration enforcement officials.[18] Protests have been held nationwide to demonstrate against federal immigration enforcement, ICE, and Good's killing; the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has responded by sending additional ICE agents to Minneapolis.[19]

Moreover, I certify to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief that there is an urgent need to inform the public about the Trump Administration's actions surrounding the killing of Renee Nicole Good. President Trump and Trump Administration officials repeatedly made allegations and spread falsehoods about Good and her interaction with the ICE agent to defend the killing.[20] Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem limited congressional access to ICE facilities amid calls for additional oversight of ICE from Congress.[21] The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) launched an investigation into the shooting, and local officials have been blocked from participating in the investigation, raising questions about the legitimacy and fairness of

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shot-1aeabfaf747eff0162c15216bf41c9e7; Ray Sanchez, *Whistles, Then Gunfire: How the Deadly ICE Shooting Unfolded in Minneapolis*, CNN, Jan. 10, 2026, https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/10/us/ice-shooting-minneapolis-renee-good; *ICE Agent's Cellphone Video Shows the Minutes Before Renee Good Was Killed*, Democracy Now!, Jan. 12, 2026, https://www.democracynow.org/2026/1/12/headlines/ice_agents_cellphone_video_shows_the_minutes_before_renee_good_was_killed; Anna Liss-Roy, *Two Congressman Watched an ICE Shooting Video. Only One is Sure of What He Saw.*, Wash. Post (Jan. 11, 2026, 5:00 AM), https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2026/01/11/ice-shooting-renee-good-reactions/.

[18] *See, e.g.*, Jordan Freiman & Faris Tanyos, *2 People Shot by Border Patrol Agents in Portland, Oregon, DHS Says*, CBS (Jan. 9, 2026, 8:16 PM), https://www.cbsnews.com/news/portland-oregon-shooting-federal-agents/.

[19] *See, e.g.*, Beret Leone et al., *Feds Vow More Agents into Minneapolis Days After Killing of Renee Good, as Protests Sprout Citywide*, CBS (Jan. 12, 2026, 8:49 PM), https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/live-updates/minneapolis-renee-good-ice-shooting-more-federal-agents/.

[20] *See supra* note 2; Luke Broadwater & Katie Rogers, *Trump Has Another Justification for the Shooting of Renee Good: Disrespect*, N.Y. Times (Jan. 12, 2026, 8:08 PM), https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/12/us/politics/trump-shooting-renee-good-ice.html; Ashley Carnahan, *Noem Alleges Woman Killed in ICE Shooting 'Stalking and Impeding' Agents All Day*, Fox (Jan. 8, 7:45 AM), https://www.foxnews.com/politics/noem-alleges-woman-killed-ice-shooting-stalking-impeding-agents-all-day; Alan Feuer et al., *F.B.I. Inquiry Into ICE Shooting is Examining Victim's Possible Ties to Activist Groups*, N.Y. Times (Jan. 12, 2026, updated 7:17 PM), https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/12/us/politics/fbi-renee-good-ice-shooting.html.

[21] *See, e.g.*, Sharon Zhang, *Noem Restricts Congressional ICE Oversight Day After Renee Good Killing*, Truthout, Jan. 12, 2026, https://truthout.org/articles/noem-restricts-congressional-ice-oversight-day-after-renee-good-killing/; Matt Brown & Lisa Mascaro, *Congress is Debating the Possible Consequences for ICE and Even Noem After Renee Good's Killing*, Assoc. Press (Jan. 10, 2026, 9:05 AM), https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/12/us/politics/fbi-renee-good-ice-shooting.html.

the FBI's inquiry.[22] White House officials have reportedly expressed fears that the Administration's response to Good's killing has undermined public confidence in the investigation.[23]

I further certify that American Oversight is primarily engaged in disseminating information to the public. 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. Similar to other organizations that have been found to satisfy the criteria necessary to qualify for expedition,[24] American Oversight "'gathers information of potential interest to a segment of the public, uses its editorial skills to turn the raw material into a distinct work, and distributes that work to an audience.'"[25] American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, and 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).[26] As discussed previously, American Oversight has demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content.[27]

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[22] *See, e.g.*, Hannah Rabinowitz et al., *What's Behind the Highly Unusual Move to Block Minnesota Officials from Investigating ICE Shooting*, CNN, Jan. 9, 2026, https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/09/politics/investigation-minneapolis-ice-shooting-deviates-police-shooting-playbook; George Chidi, *Leaders Alarmed About Fairness of FBI Inquiry into Minneapolis ICE Shooting*, Guardian (Jan. 10, 2026, 7:00 AM), https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/10/fbi-investigation-minneapolis-ice-shooting-renee-nicole-good; Glenn Thrush, *F.B.I.'s Inquiry Into ICE Shooting Faces Doubts After White House's Remarks*, N.Y. Times, Jan. 10, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/10/us/politics/trump-ice-shooting-response-minneapolis.html.

[23] *See supra* note 3.

[24] *See ACLU v. U.S. Dep't of Justice*, 321 F. Supp. 2d 24, 30–31 (D.D.C. 2004); *EPIC v. Dep't of Defense*, 241 F. Supp. 2d 5, 15 (D.D.C. 2003).

[25] *ACLU*, 321 F. Supp. 2d at 29 n.5 (quoting *EPIC*, 241 F. Supp. 2d at 11).

[26] American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 94,200 followers on X (formerly Twitter). American Oversight, Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/ (last visited Jan. 20, 2026); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), https://x.com/weareoversight (last visited Jan. 20, 2026).

[27] *See generally News*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/blog; *see, e.g.*, *Emails and Resume of Trump's Pick to Head Government Personnel Office*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/emails-and-resume-of-trumps-pick-to-head-government-personnel-office; *CDC Calendars from 2018 and 2019: Pandemic-Related Briefings and Meetings*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/cdc-calendars-from-2018-and-2019-pandemic-related-briefings-and-meetings; *State Department Releases Ukraine Documents to American Oversight*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/state-department-releases-ukraine-documents-to-american-oversight; *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-

Accordingly, American Oversight's request satisfies the criteria for expedition.

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. For instance, if the request seeks "communications," please search all locations likely to contain communications, including relevant hard-copy files, correspondence files, appropriate locations on hard drives and shared drives, emails, text messages or other direct messaging systems (such as iMessage, WhatsApp, Signal, or X (formerly Twitter) direct messages),voicemail messages, instant messaging systems such as Lync or ICQ, and shared messages systems such as Slack.

- In conducting your search, please understand the terms "record," "document," and "information" in their broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind.

- 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. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Federal Records Act and FOIA.[28] It is not adequate to rely on policies and procedures that require officials to move such information to official systems within a certain period of time; American Oversight has a right to records contained in those files even if material has not yet been moved to official

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use-his-influence-at-hud-to-help-his-business; *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; *Sessions' Letter Shows DOJ Acted On Trump's Authoritarian Demand to Investigate Clinton*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/sessions-letter.

[28] *See Competitive Enter. Inst. v. Office of Sci. & Tech. Policy*, 827 F.3d 145, 149–50 (D.C. Cir. 2016); *cf. Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Kerry*, 844 F.3d 952, 955–56 (D.C. Cir. 2016).

systems or if officials have, by intent or through negligence, failed to meet their obligations.[29]

- Please use all tools available to your agency to conduct a complete and efficient search for potentially responsive records. Agencies are subject to government-wide requirements to manage agency information electronically,[30] and many agencies have adopted the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Capstone program, or similar policies. These systems provide options for searching emails and other electronic records in a manner that is reasonably likely to be more complete than just searching individual custodian files. For example, a custodian may have deleted a responsive email from his or her email program, but your agency's archiving tools may capture that email under Capstone. At the same time, custodian searches are still necessary; agencies may not have direct access to files stored in .PST files, outside of network drives, in paper format, or in personal email accounts.

- 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. 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.

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[29] *See Competitive Enter. Inst. v. Office of Sci. & Tech. Policy*, No. 14-cv-765, slip op. at 8 (D.D.C. Dec. 12, 2016).

[30] Presidential Memorandum—Managing Government Records, 76 Fed. Reg. 75,423 (Nov. 28, 2011), https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/28/presidential-memorandum-managing-government-records; Office of Mgmt. & Budget, Exec. Office of the President, Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments & Independent Agencies, "Managing Government Records Directive," M-12-18 (Aug. 24, 2012), https://www.archives.gov/files/records-mgmt/m-12-18.pdf.

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 David Kronig at foia@americanoversight.org or (202) 897-3915. Also, if American Oversight's request for expedition is not granted or its request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making such a determination.

Sincerely,

/s/ David Kronig
David Kronig
on behalf of
American Oversight