AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

February 2, 2026

VIA ONLINE PORTAL

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Freedom of Information Act Office
500 12th St. SW
Stop 5009
Washington, DC 20536
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] The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) subsequently opened investigations into Renee Good's partner and Minnesota elected officials,[2] while declining to open a civil rights investigation into the killing of Good.[3] Widespread demonstrations were held across Minneapolis and the United States to protest ICE and federal immigration enforcement in the aftermath of Good's death.[4] Activist Nekima Levy Armstrong was arrested in

[1] *See, e.g.*, Hannah Ziegler et al., *What We Know About the Fatal ICE Shooting in Minneapolis*, N.Y. Times, Jan. 12, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/07/us/ice-shooting-minneapolis-renee-good.html; Susan-Elizabeth Littlefield, *A Look Back at the Killing of Renee Good and the Historic Days that Followed in Minneapolis*, CBS News (Jan. 12, 2026, 7:13 AM), https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/renee-good-ice-shooting-timeline-minneapolis/.

[2] *See, e.g.*, Ryan J. Reilly et al., *Federal Officials Investigating Renee Good's Partner, Sources Say*, NBC (Jan. 17, 2026, 7:06 PM), https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/federal-officials-investigating-renee-goods-partner-rcna254038; Alanna Durkin Richer et al., *Justice Department Investigates Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Frey*, PBS (Jan. 16, 2026, 8:13 PM), https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/justice-department-investigates-minnesota-gov-walz-and-minneapolis-mayor-frey.

[3] *See, e.g.*, Max Rego, *DOJ Sees No Basis for Civil Right Investigation Following ICE Shooting in Minneapolis, Official Says*, The Hill (Jan. 13, 2026, 10:52 PM), https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/5687963-doj-not-investigating-renee-good-shooting/.

[4] *See, e.g.*, Chandelis Duster et al., *Nationwide Anti-ICE Protests Call for Accountability After Renee Good's Death*, NPR (Jan. 11, 2026, 6:16 PM),

Minneapolis, and Trump Administration officials filmed her arrest and subsequently manipulated footage to make it appear as though Levy Armstrong was crying.[5] The investigation into Good's widow and the manipulation of arrest footage of Levy Armstrong raise concerns that these actions were politicized as the Trump Administration faced significant criticism for ICE activity in Minnesota.[6] American Oversight seeks records with the potential to shed light on this matter.

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:

> All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) sent by any of the officials listed below, and/or anyone communicating on their behalf, such as an assistant, secretary, or chief of staff, and containing any of the key terms listed below.
>
> Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officials:
> i. Anyone serving as Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs
> ii. Anyone serving as Principal Deputy Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs
> iii. Anyone serving as Chief of Staff, Office of Public Affairs
>
> Key Terms:
> a. Nekima
> b. Levy
> c. Armstrong
> d. Chauntyll

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https://www.npr.org/2026/01/10/nx-s1-5673229/ice-protests-minneapolis-portland-renee-good; *'We Had Whistles. They Had Guns': Nationwide Protests Held Over ICE Killing of Renee Good*, Democracy Now!, Jan. 12, 2026, https://www.democracynow.org/2026/1/12/minneapolis_protests.

[5] *See, e.g.*, Jacey Fortin & Lauren McCarthy, *3 People Arrested Over Protest of Minnesota Pastor Linked to ICE*, N.Y. Times, Jan. 22, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/22/us/nekima-levy-armstrong-arrest-minnesota-church.html; Jack Brook & Sarah Raza, *Minnesota Activist Releases Video of Arrest After Manipulated White House Version*, AP (Jan. 23, 2026, 5:36 PM), https://apnews.com/article/minnesota-activist-ice-protest-church-video-49faf3efd54e496388651aac1369fb44.

[6] *See, e.g.*, Robin Young et al., *How the DOJ is Politicizing Minneapolis ICE Investigation*, NPR (Jan. 14, 2026, 3:00 PM), https://www.npr.org/2026/01/14/nx-s1-5677298/how-the-doj-is-politicizing-minneapolis-ice-investigation; Stephen Collinson, *Minneapolis is Becoming a Critical Testing Ground for Trump's Strongman Project*, CNN, Jan. 16, 2026, https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/16/politics/trump-insurrection-act-ice-minnesota-lawsuit-analysis.

e. "Louisa Allen"
f. "William Kelly"
g. "church riot"
h. "cities church"
i. meme
j. memes

In an effort to accommodate your office and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited this request to emails sent by the specified individuals. To be clear, however, American Oversight's request encompasses complete email chains, including all preceding messages in a chain to which a custodian responded. This means that any message a listed official sent during the specified time frame where a key term listed above appears anywhere in the preceding chain is responsive to this request, and all sent and received messages in that chain should be produced.

Please provide all responsive records from January 22, 2026, through January 23, 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 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."[7] The public has a significant interest in the Trump Administration's investigations into and arrests of activists in Minneapolis protesting in response to the killing of Renee Nicole Good.[8] Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the federal government, including officials' actions in the lead-up and aftermath of publicly-reported investigations and arrests, and how these arrests and investigations were characterized by the Trump Administration. 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.

[7] 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).
[8] *See, e.g.*, sources cited *supra* notes 2, 4.

This request "is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester."[9] 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).[10]

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.[11] Examples reflecting this commitment include the posting of records related to the first Trump Administration's contacts with Ukraine and analyses of those contacts;[12] posting records and editorial content about the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic;[13] posting records received as part of American 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;[14] 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

[9] 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).
[10] 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 Feb. 2, 2026); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), https://x.com/weareoversight (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[11] *See generally News*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/blog.
[12] *Trump Administration's Contacts with Ukraine*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-contacts-with-ukraine.
[13] *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 Briefings and Meetings*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/cdc-calendars-from-2018-and-2019-pandemic-related-briefings-and-meetings.
[14] *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/.

waivers;[15] and posting records and analysis of federal officials' use of taxpayer dollars to charter private aircraft or use government planes for unofficial business.[16]

Accordingly, American Oversight qualifies for a fee waiver.

Application for Expedited Processing

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E) and 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e), 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.[17] On January 7, 2026, an ICE agent killed Renee Nicole Good, an unarmed U.S. citizen, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.[18] President Trump and Trump Administration officials repeatedly made controversial allegations and spread falsehoods about Good and her interaction with the ICE agent to defend the killing.[19] The DOJ subsequently opened an investigation into Good's partner's connections to activist networks, prompting six DOJ officials to resign.[20] In the

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[15] *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.

[16] *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.

[17] *See* 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e).

[18] *See, e.g.*, Stepheny Price et al., *Who Was Renee Nicole Good, Woman Killed in Minneapolis ICE Shooting?*, Fox News (Jan. 7, 2026, 8:02 PM), https://www.foxnews.com/us/who-renee-nicole-good-woman-killed-minneapolis-ice-shooting.

[19] *See* sources cited *supra* note 2; *see also* 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 News (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, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/12/us/politics/fbi-renee-good-ice-shooting.html.

[20] *See, e.g.*, Ernesto Londoño, *Six Prosecutors Quit Over Push to Investigate ICE Shooting Victim's Widow*, N.Y. Times, Jan. 15, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/13/us/prosecutors-doj-resignation-ice-shooting.html.

aftermath of Good's killing, activist Nekima Levy Armstrong was arrested in Minneapolis for protesting against ICE; Trump Administration officials filmed her arrest and subsequently posted a manipulated version of the footage.[21] Furthermore, statements from Levy Armstrong's attorney suggest the government was initially open to a negotiating voluntary surrender but quickly reversed position and insisted on an arrest at her hotel.[22] The investigation into Good's widow and the circumstances of Levy Armstrong's arrest, including manipulation of arrest footage, raise concerns that these actions were undertaken for political purposes as the Trump Administration faced significant criticism for ICE activity in Minnesota.[23]

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 circumstances surrounding federal arrests and investigations in the aftermath of the killing of Renee Good in Minneapolis, including whether the Trump Administration is weaponizing the government against protesters or otherwise leveraging these official actions for improper purposes.[24] In the time since these investigations and arrests tied to activism and protest surrounding Good's death, another U.S. citizen in Minneapolis was killed by two U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents.[25] This second killing has led to

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[21] *See, e.g.*, Maddie Kornfeld & Laura Doan, *White House Posts an Altered Photo of Minnesota Protestor's Arrest to Make it Look Like She Was Crying*, CBS News (Jan. 24, 2026, 7:32 PM), https://www.cbsnews.com/news/white-house-photo-minnesota-protester-arrest-altered-crying/; Kaitlyn Huamani, *Trump's Use of AI Images Pushes New Boundaries, Further Eroding Public Trust, Experts Say*, AP (Jan. 27, 2026, 1:51 PM), https://apnews.com/article/ai-videos-trump-ice-artificial-intelligence-08d91fa44f3146ec1f8ee4d213cdad31; Monica Alba et al., *White House Shares an Altered Photo of Arrested Minnesota Protestor Nekima Levy Armstrong*, NBC News (Jan. 23, 2026, 11:20 AM), https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/white-house-shares-altered-photo-arrested-minnesota-protester-nekima-l-rcna255595.

[22] *See* mixed.hype, Instagram (Jan. 23, 2026), https://www.instagram.com/reel/DT1uZ6HDRNF/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ== (video of statement by Nekima Levy Armstrong's attorney, Jordan Kushner).

[23] *See, e.g.*, Elena Moore, *How Minnesota Became the Center of a Political Crisis*, NPR (Jan. 23, 2026, 5:00 AM), https://www.npr.org/2026/01/23/nx-s1-5678976/how-minnesota-became-the-center-of-a-political-crisis; Dareh Gregorian & Ryan J. Reilly, *Justice Department Investigating a Growing Number of Trump Political Foes*, NBC News (Jan. 24, 2026, 5:23 AM), https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/growing-number-trump-political-foes-investigated-justice-department-rcna255049; Jacob Knutson, *After Minneapolis, Trump Ushers in Death of Independent Federal Law Enforcement*, Democracy Docket, Jan. 16, 2026, https://www.democracydocket.com/analysis/trump-justice-department-renee-nicole-good-death-independent-federal-law-enforcement/.

[24] *See, e.g.*, sources cited *supra* note 5.

[25] *See, e.g.*, Bora Erden et al., *Timeline: A Moment-by-Moment Look at the Shooting of Alex Pretti*, N.Y. Times (Jan. 25, 2026, 5:50 PM), https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2026/01/24/us/minneapolis-shooting-alex-pretti-timeline.html; Michael Biesecker et al., *The Man Killed by a US Border Patrol*

further protests,[26] increasing the urgency of understanding whether the Trump Administration is taking politicized action against activists.

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,[27] 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.'"[28] 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).[29] As discussed previously, American Oversight has demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content.[30]

Officer in Minneapolis Was an ICU Nurse, Family Says, AP (Jan. 24, 2026, 9:41 PM), https://apnews.com/article/immigration-enforcement-minnesota-protester-alex-pretti-15ade7de6e19cb0291734e85dac763dc; Ray Sanchez et al., *What We Know So Far About the Latest Killing by a Federal Agent in Minneapolis*, CNN, Jan. 25, 2026, https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/25/us/shooting-minneapolis-alex-pretti-killed.

[26] *See, e.g.*, Dan Barry, *A Shocked Nation Watches Minneapolis Killings: 'Something Needs to Change'*, N.Y. Times, Jan. 27, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/27/us/alex-pretti-shooting-minneapolis-reaction.html.

[27] *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).

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

[29] 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 Feb. 2, 2026); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), https://x.com/weareoversight (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).

[30] *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-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*

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.
- 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.[31] 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 systems or if officials have, by intent or through negligence, failed to meet their obligations.[32]
- 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,[33] and many

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Authoritarian Demand to Investigate Clinton, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/sessions-letter.

[31] *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).

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

[33] 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

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.

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 Jessica Jensen at foia@americanoversight.org or (276) 293-9853 ext. 1033. Also, if American Oversight's

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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.

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/ Jessica Jensen
Jessica Jensen
on behalf of
American Oversight