



U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

KK:
21-00271-F

Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Branch/4CON
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530

VIA EMAIL

September 8, 2022

Stewart L. Whitson
Foundation for Government Accountability (FGA)
15275 Collier Blvd.
Suite 201-279
Naples, FL 34119
Stewart@theFGA.org

c/o
Jeffrey M. Harris
Consovoy McCarthy PLLC
1600 Wilson Blvd., Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22209
Jeff@consovoymccarthy.com

Frank Hyok Chang
Consovoy McCarthy PLLC
1600 Wilson Blvd., Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22209
Frank@consovoymccarthy.com

Dear Mr. Whitson:

This is in response to your July 30, 2021 Freedom of Information Act request, received by the Civil Rights Division and acknowledged on August 4, 2021, seeking the following information:

- (1) Please provide your agency's strategic plan developed pursuant to President Biden Executive Order 14019 ("Promoting Access to Voting") outlining ways you identified for your agency to promote voter registration and voter participation, as directed by EO 14019.
- (2) If your agency declined to consent to a request by a State to be designated as a voter registration agency pursuant to section 7(a)(3)(B)(ii) of the National Voter Registration Act,

please provide a copy of the written explanation for the decision provided by the head of your agency to President Biden, as directed by EO 14019.

- (3) Please provide any formal notifications provided to any State in which your agency provides services notifying the State that your agency would agree to designation as a voter registration agency pursuant to section 7(a)(3)(B)(ii) of the National Voter Registration Act, as directed by EO 14019.
- (4) Please provide all communications with the White House related to Executive Order 14019 and/or the strategic plan requested through EO 14019. Please include any and all communications with the Vice President's Office and staff, as well as with Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice and her staff related to EO 14019.
- (5) Please provide all communication between your agency and the non-profit organization Demos and/or any of its employees or officers or the 501(c)4 organization associated with Demos, known as "Demos Action," related to EO 14019. Please include the dates, time, and purpose of any meeting(s), in person or remote, that your agency conducted with Demos, Demos Action, or any of its employees or officers.

Response to Request Category One:

After review of the Civil Rights Division documents responsive to your request Category 1, the Division has identified (15) pages of material representing the *STRATEGIC PLAN for the Implementation of Executive Order 14019, Promoting Access to Voting*. I have determined that these materials are to be withheld in full pursuant to Exemption 5 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(5), which pertains to certain inter- and intra-agency records protected by civil discovery privileges, in this instance the deliberative process and presidential communications privileges.

Response to Request Categories Two and Three:

After a thorough search, I have determined that the Civil Rights Division has no records pertaining to the subject of these portions of your request.

Response to Request Category Four:

After review of the Civil Rights Division documents responsive to your request Category 4, I have determined that the enclosed (135) pages of documents may be released to you with certain information withheld pursuant to Exemptions 5 and 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §§ 552(b)(5) and (b)(6). As noted above, Exemption 5 pertains to certain inter- and intra-agency records protected by the deliberative process and presidential communications privileges. Exemption 6 pertains to information the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Wholly duplicative emails within these pages were not processed more than once; those duplicates have been identified for your convenience.

Response to Request Category Five:

After a thorough search, I have determined that the Civil Rights Division has no records reflecting communication between the Division and the organization you listed. However, please consult the (135) pages in response to Category Four of your request where that organization incidentally appears.

If you have questions about this response, you may contact Ms. Laurel Lum at Laurel.H.Lum@usdoj.gov.

I hope the Civil Rights Division has been of some assistance to you in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kilian Kagle

Kilian Kagle, Chief

Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Branch

Civil Rights Division

Enclosures