



August 20, 2021

VIA ONLINE PORTAL

Lt. Richard Mantellino
Legal Bureau – FOIL Unit
One Police Plaza, Room 110-C
New York, NY 10038
Via Online Portal

Re: Freedom of Information Law Request

Dear Lt. Mantellino:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), N.Y. Pub. Off. Law §§ 84-90, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

In January 2021, press reported that the New York Police Department (NYPD) provided the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the U.S. Capitol Police a packet of information indicating there could be violence during the certification of the 2020 election results at the U.S. Capitol Building.¹

American Oversight seeks this packet of information.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the NYPD produce the following records within five business days:

A copy of the information packet produced by the NYPD to the FBI and U.S. Capitol Police that included indications of possible violence or other disruption when lawmakers certified the presidential election on January 6, 2021.²

Please provide all responsive records from December 20, 2020, through January 6, 2021.

Fee Waiver Request

American Oversight requests that your agency consider waiving any fees associated with processing this request for records pursuant to 21 NYCRR § 1401.8(g). American

¹ Dina Temple-Raston, *Why Didn't the FBI and DHS Produce a Threat Report Ahead of the Capitol Insurrection?*, NPR (Jan. 13, 2021, 7:16 PM),

<https://www.npr.org/2021/01/13/956359496/why-didnt-the-fbi-and-dhs-produce-a-threat-report-ahead-of-the-capitol-insurrect>.

² For further identifying information, please *see id.*



Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses information gathered through research and public records requests, 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 Twitter.³

The public has a significant interest in information related to the January 6th insurrection attempt on the U.S. Capitol building.⁴ Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the New York city government, including what information was collected by the NYPD and given to federal law enforcement agencies ahead of the insurrection attempt.

Accordingly, American Oversight respectfully requests a fee waiver.

To the extent your agency anticipates charging any fees in connection with this request for records, American Oversight requests that you inform us in advance of doing so.

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. 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.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in

³ American Oversight currently has approximately 15,640 page likes on Facebook and 107,500 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Aug. 17, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Aug. 17, 2021).

⁴ *See, e.g., supra* note 1.

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 Hart Wood at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 873-1743. 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/ Hart Wood
Hart Wood
on behalf of
American Oversight