



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Suite 11050
1425 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

SEP 28 2011

Mr. John Althen
Judicial Watch
425 Third Street, SW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024

Re: OIP/10-R0244
PAO/10-R0262
ASG/11-01213 (F)
CLM:DRH:SBT

Dear Mr. Althen:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated December 7, 2009, and received in this Office on December 14, 2009, for records pertaining to a training conference for FOIA Public Liaisons that was conducted by the Office of Information Policy on December 7, 2009. This response is made on behalf of the Offices of the Associate Attorney General, Public Affairs, and Information Policy.

Please be advised that searches have been conducted in the Offices of Information Policy and Public Affairs and four pages of material have been located that are responsive to your request. I have determined that these documents are appropriate for release with excisions made pursuant to Exemptions 5 and 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), (6), which pertain to certain inter- and intra-agency communications protected by the deliberative process privilege and to information the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of a third party.

Although additional portions of this material could be withheld pursuant to Exemption 5 of the FOIA, I have determined in this instance that such material may be disclosed as a matter of agency discretion.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001. Your appeal must be received within sixty days from the date of this letter. Both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carmen L. Mallon".

Carmen L. Mallon
Chief of Staff

Enclosures

Pustay, Melanie A

From: Talamona, Gina
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2009 8:54 AM
To: Hauck, Brian; Pustay, Melanie A
Subject: RE: AP story

After talking with matt and ben labolt, the decision is that the training will still be closed to the press. As I emailed melanie, dana milbank is also interested in this now. We will give him the training material as well as the AP. Labolt is now engaged since the reporter apparently didn't reach out to them about the broader story. They only reached out to us about opening the training and we had no idea they were writing such a broad piece.

-----Original Message-----

From: Hauck, Brian
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2009 12:21 AM
To: Talamona, Gina; Pustay, Melanie A
Subject: RE: AP story

Thanks -- and I definitely defer to you all on whether you want press there or not.

-----Original Message-----

From: Talamona, Gina
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2009 12:20 AM
To: Hauck, Brian; Pustay, Melanie A
Subject: Re: AP story

I'll talk to matt in the am.

----- Original Message -----

From: Hauck, Brian
To: Pustay, Melanie A; Talamona, Gina
Sent: Sun Dec 06 21:49:05 2009
Subject: RE: AP story

For what it's worth, I am inclined to defer completely to you as to whether you want press there or not. I think you have the right to give closed training when you want it -- but also to open it when you want it.

Melanie, can you make sure that OPA is in on any conversations with a reporter here? And Gina, if the reporter comes, I suspect you'll have to set some pretty firm ground rules.

Thanks,
Brian

-----Original Message-----

From: Pustay, Melanie A
Sent: Sunday, December 06, 2009 6:50 PM
To: Hauck, Brian; Talamona, Gina
Subject: Fw: AP story

Blake Roberts requested that we not reach out to any reporter until he talks with WH press folks.

Sent from Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: Pustay, Melanie A
To: Hauck, Brian; Talamona, Gina
Sent: Sun Dec 06 18:42:50 2009
Subject: AP story

Brian/Gina -

Exemption (b)(5)

Blake Roberts has called and wondered [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
get back to him --

I advised I would check and

Sent from Blackberry

Pustay, Melanie A

From: Pustay, Melanie A
Sent: Sunday, December 06, 2009 6:48 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: 'miriam.nisbet@nara.gov'
Subject: Re: FOIA workshop tomorrow

Exemption (b)(6)

Exemption (b)(5)

Sure thing -

[Redacted]

So far I have always held parallel sessions, one for agency 'ees and then one that is open. I told the reporter that, but that fact did not make it into her story!

Sent from Blackberry

From: Roberts, Blake C. [Redacted]
To: Pustay, Melanie A
Cc: miriam.nisbet@nara.gov <miriam.nisbet@nara.gov>
Sent: Sun Dec 06 18:43:09 2009
Subject: Re: FOIA workshop tomorrow

Exemption (b)(6)

Ok - please don't have them reach out to any reporters before I clear w/ wh press.

From: Pustay, Melanie A <Melanie.A.Pustay@usdoj.gov>
To: Roberts, Blake C.
Cc: miriam.nisbet@nara.gov <miriam.nisbet@nara.gov>
Sent: Sun Dec 06 18:39:18 2009
Subject: Re: FOIA workshop tomorrow

Blake -

I am going to touch base with my public affairs office re your suggestion to get their reaction. I, personally don't object as my message is the same whether the event is open or not. Our concern had been solely with the inhibiting effect it would have on the gov't 'ees who might not speak freely if press are there.

Melanie

Sent from Blackberry

From: Roberts, Blake C. [Redacted]
To: Miriam Nisbet <Miriam.Nisbet@nara.gov>; Pustay, Melanie A
Sent: Sun Dec 06 15:17:19 2009
Subject: FOIA workshop tomorrow

Exemption (b)(6)

Can one of you call me on this ASAP?

[Redacted] or [Redacted]

Exemption (b)(6)

1/21/2010

Thanks -- Blake

Blake Roberts
Deputy Associate White House Counsel

[REDACTED] (w)
[REDACTED] (m)

Exemption (b)(6)