

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON

November 30, 2009

Ms. Tegan Millspaw  
Judicial Watch, Inc.  
501 School Street, SW (Suite 700)  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Ms. Millspaw,

I write in response to your November 3, 2009 letter to the Information Quality Officer of the United States Secret Service (“USSS”). Therein you appeal the denial of your August 10, 2009 Freedom of Information Act request for “any and all agency records concerning all official visitors logs and/or other records concerning visits made to the White House from January 20, 2009 to present.” The USSS forwarded your letter to the White House Counsel’s Office.

As you know, on October 27, 2009, I and other members of the Counsel’s Office met with you and your colleagues to discuss your request. In that meeting, we reiterated the Administration’s firm commitment to increased transparency in government, as evidenced by the President’s decision to voluntarily disclose White House visitor logs created after September 15, 2009. This is the first Administration in history to adopt such a policy.

At our meeting we also explained that the system we inherited was not structured to identify sensitive records. As a result, we cannot make a broad retroactive release of White House visitor records without raising profound national security concerns. For example, the release of certain sensitive national security records encompassed in your request could assist foreign intelligence agencies to identify and target U.S. government officials.

For these reasons and others, we asked you to focus and narrow your request. This would allow us to identify relevant records and release them to the public without endangering national security interests. In fact, on October 30, 2009 and on November 25, 2009 the White House released, in response to numerous specific requests, large collections of visitor records from the time period you identified.

We remain happy to work with you to narrow your current request, so that we can release additional records to the public and further increase government transparency. Please contact me if you are interested in further discussions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman L. Eisen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Norman" being the most prominent part.

Norman L. Eisen

Special Counsel to the President

cc: United States Secret Service