

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 06/22/2022 11:09:35 AM
To: Runkel, Chris <chris.runkel@nara.gov>; Stephani Abramson <stephani.abramson@nara.gov>
Subject: Acting N Agenda
Attachments: Archivist Update, June 2022.docx

Here's the draft agenda for meeting with Deb this afternoon at 3.

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



(b) (5) [Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

c. FOIA for Obama/Biden VP records

i. Nearly 1000 requests for Obama records, and 60 requests for Biden VP

1. Backlog for complex electronic FOIAs already 20 years

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7. FOIA/Access

- a. (b) (5)
- b. (b) (5)
- c. NGC FOIA Stats
 - i. **Currently at 603 operational requests for FY 22**
 - 1. NGC received 842 in FY21, 662 in FY20, 532 in FY19, 473 in FY18, 589 in FY17, and 509 in FY16.
 - a. 13 requests related to Trump boxes
 - i. Granted expedited processing
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- k. 10 Oldest list
 - i. Oldest cases are now all from Presidential Libraries
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9. FADs: see attached list

10. Privacy

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18. (b) (5)

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19. (b) (5)

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From: Stephani Abramson <stephani.abramson@nara.gov>
Sent time: 06/22/2022 11:14:25 AM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: Runkel, Chris <chris.runkel@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Acting N Agenda
Attachments: SignedMessage.eml

I added an update (b) (5)

On Wed, Jun 22, 2022 at 11:10 AM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

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Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
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8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
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--

Stephani L. Abramson
Counsel for Procurement and Employment Law
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road, Room 3110
College Park, MD 20740
(301) 837-1888
(301) 837-0293 (fax)

Confidentiality Statement:

This message is transmitted to you by the Office of General Counsel of the National Archives and Records Administration. The message, along with any attachments, may be confidential and legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, please destroy it promptly without further retention or dissemination (unless otherwise required by law). Please notify the sender of the error by a separate e-mail or by calling (301) 837-1888.

From:

Attachments:

Archivist Update, June 2022.docx smime.p7s

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From: Chris Runkel <chris.runkel@nara.gov>
Sent time: 06/22/2022 12:51:26 PM
To: Stephani Abramson <stephani.abramson@nara.gov>
Cc: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Acting N Agenda
Attachments: Archivist Update, June 2022.docx

My changes are included and accepted. Gary, Stephani's are still in redline.

Chris

On Wed, Jun 22, 2022 at 11:15 AM Stephani Abramson <stephani.abramson@nara.gov> wrote:

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On Wed, Jun 22, 2022 at 11:10 AM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

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17. (b) (5)

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- [Redacted]
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From: National Archives Public Affairs <public.affairs@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/08/2022 01:34:58 PM
To: Brewer, Laurence <laurence.brewer@nara.gov>; Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: Public Affairs <public.affairs@nara.gov>
BCc: miriam.kleiman@nara.gov
Subject: NYPost inquiry -- Trump Mar-a-Lago documents

Hi -

Please see below and let us know if there's any response to share. Certainly understand "no comment."

Thanks -

Miriam

National Archives Public and Media Communications staff

public.affairs@nara.gov

[Join our email press list!](#)



----- Forwarded message -----

From: 'Callie Patteson' via Public and Media Communications <public.affairs@nara.gov>
Date: Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 11:46 AM
Subject: Inquiry -- Trump Mar-a-Lago documents
To: <public.affairs@nara.gov>

Good morning,

I wanted to reach out regarding the documents obtained by the National Archives earlier this year from Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort.

Does the Archives plan to make these documents public any time soon?
Can the Archives reveal how much was confidential information?
Has the Archives fully complied with the House Oversight Committee's inquiry into the matter?
Does the National Archives have any additional comment?

Let me know as soon as possible.

Thank you

Callie

--

Callie Patteson
Political Reporter, NY Post
cpatteson@nypost.com
603-973-0956

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/09/2022 08:31:45 AM
To: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Cc: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>; Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Urgent request on FBI search for documents at Mar a Lago

fyi, ABC News emailed me this morning, which I will not respond to.

And, interestingly, the [Washington Post article this morning](#) quotes Ferriero's statement on the boxes, and then goes into some detail about the inventory, (b) (5)

In January, the National Archives and Records Administration retrieved 15 boxes of documents and other items from Mar-a-Lago that Archives officials said should have been turned over when Trump left the White House.

“The Presidential Records Act is critical to our democracy, in which the government is held accountable by the people,” David S. Ferriero, then the archivist of the United States, said in a statement in February.

At the time, Ferriero said in a statement that Trump representatives were “continuing to search” for additional records. Trump was resistant to giving over the records for months, advisers said at the time.

Some of the materials Trump took included letters and notes from foreign leaders, such as North Korea’s Kim Jong Un.

The inventory of unclassified items in the boxes that were recovered earlier this year from Mar-a-Lago is roughly 100 pages long, according to a person familiar with that document. Descriptions of items that were improperly taken to Mar-a-Lago include a cocktail napkin, a phone list, charts, slide decks, letters, memos, maps, talking points, a birthday dinner menu, schedules and more, this person said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss details of the ongoing investigation.

There is a separate inventory for just the classified materials that were taken to the former president’s Florida residence, this person said. If the unclassified version of the classified inventory were organized in the same way as the inventory of nonclassified items, it would be about three pages long, according to this person.

“It’s important to note that volume is only one way to quantify the documents that were taken,” the person added. “But just one page — or one portion of highly sensitive information — being improperly released can cause great national security harm.”

As for classification level, they range from confidential to top-secret to special handling categories, the person added.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 9:13 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

FYI, Katelyn called and left me a voice mail also. We should definitely not comment in any way about this.

Thanks,
Gary

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Polantz, Katelyn** <katelyn.polantz@warnermedia.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 8, 2022, 8:45 PM

Subject: Urgent request on FBI search for documents at Mar a Lago

To: National Archives Public Affairs <public.affairs@nara.gov>, garym.stern@nara.gov <garym.stern@nara.gov>

Hello,

Would the Archives have a comment to provide in response to the FBI searching Mar a Lago today for documents, related to an investigation into the handling of federal records?

Thank you,
Katelyn

--

Katelyn Polantz
CNN
Cell: 202-738-8185

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/09/2022 08:44:17 AM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>; Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Urgent request on FBI search for documents at Mar a Lago

Thank you, Gary.

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



On Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 8:32 AM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:
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As for classification level, they range from confidential to top-secret to special handling categories, the person added.

Thanks,

Gary

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
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College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 9:17 PM Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov> wrote:
Got it. Thanks, Gary.

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 9:13 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

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Date: Mon, Aug 8, 2022, 8:45 PM
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To: National Archives Public Affairs <public.affairs@nara.gov>, garym.stern@nara.gov <garym.stern@nara.gov>

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Cell: 202-738-8185

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Sent time: 08/09/2022 04:26:46 PM
To: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>; Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>; Donius, Susan <susan.donius@nara.gov>; Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>
Cc: Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FW: Letter
Attachments: image001.png 2022.08.09_Acting Archivist_Records Production and Preservation.pdf

Inquiry from the minority of the House Intel Committee on the FBI actions in Florida yesterday--

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 4:09 PM
Subject: FW: Letter
To: (b) (6)@nara.gov <(b) (6)@nara.gov>, (b) (6)@nara.gov <(b) (6)@nara.gov>

See below

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 4:02 PM
To: john.hamilton@nara.gov
Subject: Letter

John,

Please see the attached letter.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

HPSCI

--

(b) (6)
(b) (6)
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Office (b) (6)

Michael R. Turner, Ohio
Ranking Member

Brad R. Wenstrup, Ohio
Chris Stewart, Utah
Rick Crawford, Arkansas
Elise M. Stefanik, New York
Markwayne Mullin, Oklahoma
Trent Kelly, Mississippi
Darin LaHood, Illinois
Brian Fitzpatrick, Pennsylvania
Mike Gallagher, Wisconsin

Kevin McCarthy, California
Republican Leader

UNCLASSIFIED
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE MINORITY

HVC-304, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4121

Adam Howard
Minority Staff Director

August 9, 2022

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Dear Acting Archivist Wall:

Yesterday, agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conducted a search of former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence, purportedly based upon a referral from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to investigate former President Donald Trump's handling of classified White House records.¹ Former Archivist David Ferriero confirmed that NARA had been in communication with the Department of Justice (DOJ) over records that were previously transferred from President Trump because classified information was allegedly found within those boxes.²

I would assume that an escalation of this magnitude – for the Bureau to obtain a court ordered-search warrant and conduct an unannounced search, for the first time in our country's history, to seize documents stored at a former President's residence – would indicate that the Federal government perceived something in those documents posed a serious, ongoing threat to our national security. As such, the substance of any communications between NARA, the FBI, and/or the DOJ, including whether any formal criminal referral was made by NARA related to what was ultimately seized by the FBI yesterday and the basis for such referral, is of keen interest to the investigative and legislative activities of this Committee.³

Please produce all documents and communications responsive to these matters to the Committee no later than August 24, 2022.

In addition, it is therefore necessary that you preserve all relevant documents and communications that may refer or relate to this matter, including those on official governmental accounts and on personal, non-governmental accounts. Specifically, this preservation request should be construed as an instruction to preserve all documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, that is or may be potentially

¹ Caroline Linton, *Trump says Mar-a-Lago was 'raided' by FBI*, CBS News (Aug. 9, 2022), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-mar-a-lago-fbi-search-warrant-raid/>.

² Letter from David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, to Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (Feb. 18, 2022).

³ H. Rule X, clause 11(c)(2).

UNCLASSIFIED

responsive to a congressional inquiry, request, investigation, or subpoena that may be initiated or otherwise undertaken by a committee of Congress or any other investigative entity.

For purposes of this request, “preserve” means securing and maintaining the integrity of all relevant documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, by taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, mutation, or negligent or reckless handling that could render the information incomplete or inaccessible. This includes preserving all compilations of documents that have already been gathered in response to requests, even if copies of individual documents may still exist elsewhere in the agency. I further request that you or your designee:

1. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify all relevant individuals, including current and former employees, officials, detailees, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants who may have had access to potentially relevant information that they should preserve and return such information to NARA;
2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify, recover, and preserve any potentially relevant electronic information that has been deleted or marked for deletion but is still recoverable;
3. Remind all relevant individuals, including current and former employees, officials, detailees, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants that any federal records sent or received using a nonofficial account must be forwarded to the agency for proper archiving, and forward all such material in your possession; and
4. If it is the routine practice of yours, or any relevant individuals, including current and former employees, officials, detailees, contractors, subcontractors, or consultants to destroy or otherwise alter potentially relevant information, either halt such practices as they relate to the potentially relevant information or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates (including metadata) of such documents, communications, or other information.

Please advise in writing as to how you will ensure all records relevant to this matter will be preserved. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Ranking Member

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/09/2022 04:31:11 PM
To: Brett Baker <brett.baker@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FW: Letter
Attachments: image001.png 2022.08.09_Acting Archivist_Records Production and Preservation.pdf

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 4:26 PM
Subject: Fwd: FW: Letter
To: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>, Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>, Donius, Susan <susan.donius@nara.gov>, Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>
Cc: Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>

Inquiry from the minority of the House Intel Committee on the FBI actions in Florida yesterday--

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 4:09 PM
Subject: FW: Letter
To: (b) (6)@nara.gov <(b) (6)@nara.gov>, (b) (6)@nara.gov <(b) (6)@nara.gov>

See below

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 4:02 PM
To: john.hamilton@nara.gov
Subject: Letter

John,

Please see the attached letter.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

HPSCI

--

(b) (6)
(b) (6)

National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

Office (b) (6)



Michael R. Turner, Ohio
Ranking Member

Brad R. Wenstrup, Ohio
Chris Stewart, Utah
Rick Crawford, Arkansas
Elise M. Stefanik, New York
Markwayne Mullin, Oklahoma
Trent Kelly, Mississippi
Darin LaHood, Illinois
Brian Fitzpatrick, Pennsylvania
Mike Gallagher, Wisconsin

Kevin McCarthy, California
Republican Leader

UNCLASSIFIED
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE MINORITY

HVC-304, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4121

Adam Howard
Minority Staff Director

August 9, 2022

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Dear Acting Archivist Wall:

Yesterday, agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conducted a search of former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence, purportedly based upon a referral from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to investigate former President Donald Trump's handling of classified White House records.¹ Former Archivist David Ferriero confirmed that NARA had been in communication with the Department of Justice (DOJ) over records that were previously transferred from President Trump because classified information was allegedly found within those boxes.²

I would assume that an escalation of this magnitude – for the Bureau to obtain a court ordered-search warrant and conduct an unannounced search, for the first time in our country's history, to seize documents stored at a former President's residence – would indicate that the Federal government perceived something in those documents posed a serious, ongoing threat to our national security. As such, the substance of any communications between NARA, the FBI, and/or the DOJ, including whether any formal criminal referral was made by NARA related to what was ultimately seized by the FBI yesterday and the basis for such referral, is of keen interest to the investigative and legislative activities of this Committee.³

Please produce all documents and communications responsive to these matters to the Committee no later than August 24, 2022.

In addition, it is therefore necessary that you preserve all relevant documents and communications that may refer or relate to this matter, including those on official governmental accounts and on personal, non-governmental accounts. Specifically, this preservation request should be construed as an instruction to preserve all documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, that is or may be potentially

¹ Caroline Linton, *Trump says Mar-a-Lago was 'raided' by FBI*, CBS News (Aug. 9, 2022), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-mar-a-lago-fbi-search-warrant-raid/>.

² Letter from David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, to Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (Feb. 18, 2022).

³ H. Rule X, clause 11(c)(2).

2022.08.09_Acting_Archivist_Records_Production_and_Preservation.pdf

UNCLASSIFIED

responsive to a congressional inquiry, request, investigation, or subpoena that may be initiated or otherwise undertaken by a committee of Congress or any other investigative entity.

For purposes of this request, “preserve” means securing and maintaining the integrity of all relevant documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, by taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, mutation, or negligent or reckless handling that could render the information incomplete or inaccessible. This includes preserving all compilations of documents that have already been gathered in response to requests, even if copies of individual documents may still exist elsewhere in the agency. I further request that you or your designee:

1. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify all relevant individuals, including current and former employees, officials, detailees, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants who may have had access to potentially relevant information that they should preserve and return such information to NARA;
2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify, recover, and preserve any potentially relevant electronic information that has been deleted or marked for deletion but is still recoverable;
3. Remind all relevant individuals, including current and former employees, officials, detailees, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants that any federal records sent or received using a nonofficial account must be forwarded to the agency for proper archiving, and forward all such material in your possession; and
4. If it is the routine practice of yours, or any relevant individuals, including current and former employees, officials, detailees, contractors, subcontractors, or consultants to destroy or otherwise alter potentially relevant information, either halt such practices as they relate to the potentially relevant information or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates (including metadata) of such documents, communications, or other information.

Please advise in writing as to how you will ensure all records relevant to this matter will be preserved. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Ranking Member

From: Brett Baker <brett.baker@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/09/2022 04:42:23 PM
To: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: Letter

Thanks, Jay.

On Tue, Aug 9, 2022, 4:31 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 4:26 PM
Subject: Fwd: FW: Letter
To: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>, Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>, Donius, Susan <susan.donius@nara.gov>, Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>
Cc: Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>

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Date: Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 4:09 PM
Subject: FW: Letter
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>

See below

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(b) (6)

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HPSCI

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Office (b) (6)



From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/09/2022 06:20:33 PM
To: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Cc: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>; Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Urgent request on FBI search for documents at Mar a Lago

FYI, this [new story in the Post](#) (b) (5)

Here's the full quote:

By that point, officials at the National Archives had been aggressively contacting to people in Trump’s orbit to demand the return of documents they believed were covered by the Presidential Records Act, said two people familiar with those inquiries. Like the others, they spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss details of the investigation.

(b) (5)

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 8:44 AM Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov> wrote:

Thank you, Gary.

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH
Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



On Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 8:32 AM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

fyi, ABC News emailed me this morning, which I will not respond to. [Obtain this FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.](#)

And, interestingly, the [Washington Post article this morning](#) quotes Ferriero's statement on the boxes, and then goes into some detail about the inventory, (b) (5)

In January, the National Archives and Records Administration retrieved 15 boxes of documents and other items from Mar-a-Lago that Archives officials said should have been turned over when Trump left the White House.

“The Presidential Records Act is critical to our democracy, in which the government is held accountable by the people,” David S. Ferriero, then the archivist of the United States, said in a statement in February.

At the time, Ferriero said in a statement that Trump representatives were “continuing to search” for additional records. Trump was resistant to giving over the records for months, advisers said at the time.

Some of the materials Trump took included letters and notes from foreign leaders, such as North Korea’s Kim Jong Un.

The inventory of unclassified items in the boxes that were recovered earlier this year from Mar-a-Lago is roughly 100 pages long, according to a person familiar with that document. Descriptions of items that were improperly taken to Mar-a-Lago include a cocktail napkin, a phone list, charts, slide decks, letters, memos, maps, talking points, a birthday dinner menu, schedules and more, this person said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss details of the ongoing investigation.

There is a separate inventory for just the classified materials that were taken to the former president’s Florida residence, this person said. If the unclassified version of the classified inventory were organized in the same way as the inventory of nonclassified items, it would be about three pages long, according to this person.

“It’s important to note that volume is only one way to quantify the documents that were taken,” the person added. “But just one page — or one portion of highly sensitive information — being improperly released can cause great national security harm.”

As for classification level, they range from confidential to top-secret to special handling categories, the person added.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 9:17 PM Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov> wrote:
Got it. Thanks, Gary.

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff

National Archives

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106

15B000834

T: 202-357-5420

F: 202-357-5901



On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 9:13 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

FYI, Katelyn called and left me a voice mail also. We should definitely not comment in any way about this.

Thanks,
Gary

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Polantz, Katelyn** <katelyn.polantz@warnermmedia.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 8, 2022, 8:45 PM

Subject: Urgent request on FBI search for documents at Mar a Lago

To: National Archives Public Affairs <public.affairs@nara.gov>, garym.stern@nara.gov <garym.stern@nara.gov>

Hello,

Would the Archives have a comment to provide in response to the FBI searching Mar a Lago today for documents, related to an investigation into the handling of federal records?

Thank you,
Katelyn

--

Katelyn Polantz

CNN

Cell: 202-738-8185

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From: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/09/2022 06:24:16 PM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>; Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Urgent request on FBI search for documents at Mar a Lago

Thanks, Gary.

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



On Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 6:21 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

FYI, this [new story in the Post](#) (b) (5)

[Redacted]

Here's the full quote:

By that point, officials at the National Archives had been aggressively contacting to people in Trump's orbit to demand the return of documents they believed were covered by the Presidential Records Act, said two people familiar with those inquiries. Like the others, they spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss details of the investigation.

(b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 8:44 AM Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov> wrote:

Thank you, Gary.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff

National Archives

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106

Washington, D.C. 20408-0001

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At the time, Ferriero said in a statement that Trump representatives were “continuing to search” for additional records. Trump was resistant to giving over the records for months, advisers said at the time.

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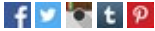
As for classification level, they range from confidential to top-secret to special handling categories, the person added.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)

301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.



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700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
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Thanks,
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From: **Polantz, Katelyn** <katelyn.polantz@warnermedia.com>
Date: Mon, Aug 8, 2022, 8:45 PM
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To: National Archives Public Affairs <public.affairs@nara.gov>, garym.stern@nara.gov <garym.stern@nara.gov>

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Katelyn

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Katelyn Polantz
CNN
Cell: 202-738-8185

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From: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/09/2022 06:47:07 PM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Urgent request on FBI search for documents at Mar a Lago

I really wish whoever those two people are would STOP talking about us. It's probably the same 2 people who were quoted earlier, and called Gary persnickety.

On Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 6:21 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

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[Redacted]

Here's the full quote:

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As for classification level, they range from confidential to top-secret to special handling categories, the person added.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



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Thank you,
Katelyn

--

Katelyn Polantz
CNN
Cell: 202-738-8185

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From: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Sent time: 08/10/2022 08:59:29 AM

To: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>

Subject: NYT Article

This article has an inaccuracy. Can we request a correction?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/09/us/politics/fbi-search-trump.html>

In January of this year, an official for the National Archives flew to Florida and retrieved 15 boxes of documents, gifts and other government property.

From: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/10/2022 09:11:03 AM
To: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Robin Waldman <robin.waldman@nara.gov>; Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: NYT Artele

Deb,

Yes, we can request a correction. I'm looping in Robin. We'll work with Jay B. and Gary to draft the correction request.

Respectfully,
Valchy

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 8:59 AM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:

This article has an inaccuracy. Can we request a correction?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/09/us/politics/fbi-search-trump.html>

In January of this year, an official for the National Archives flew to Florida and retrieved 15 boxes of documents, gifts and other government property.

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/10/2022 09:16:19 AM
To: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Cc: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Robin Waldman <robin.waldman@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: NYT Artele

I was about to point out the same thing.

(b) (5)
I am happy to work with with Valchy, Robin, and Jay to see if we can come up with something.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 9:11 AM John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov> wrote:

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Respectfully,
Valchy

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



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Sent time: 08/10/2022 09:22:32 AM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Robin Waldman <robin.waldman@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: NYT Artele

Didn't we issue something to staff and maybe the press that said we didn't go to Mar-A-Lago?

On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 9:17 AM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

I was about to point out the same thing.

(b) (5)

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Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740

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301-837-3026 (office)
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garym.stern@nara.gov



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John Valceanu
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U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238

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john.valceanu@nara.gov



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To: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: NYT Artele

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Robin Z. Waldman

(pronouns: she/her/hers)

Director, Public and Media Communications

301.837.0605 (office)

(b) (6) (mobile)



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Subject: Re: NYT Artele

Yes, I think so. I'll reach out unless anyone disagrees.

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From: National Archives Public Affairs <public.affairs@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/10/2022 12:01:13 PM
To: Brewer, Laurence <laurence.brewer@nara.gov>; Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: Public Affairs <public.affairs@nara.gov>
BCc: john.valceanu@nara.gov
Subject: HOT: ?s from NYT's Michael Schmidt re: response to Maggie Haberman

Please see below - thanks.

Miriam

----- Forwarded message -----

From: 'Michael Schmidt' via Public and Media Communications <public.affairs@nara.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 11:57 AM
Subject:
To: Public Affairs <public.affairs@nara.gov>

I'm Mike Schmidt, a reporter with The NY Times. We received this email from your organization. Our reporting contradicts what has been asserted here by NARA and we'd like to speak with you about it. Can someone please call me? I can be reached at 8043636794. Many thanks

From: public.affairs@nara.gov <public.affairs@nara.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 9:50 AM
Subject: Correction requested ("F.B.I. Search of Trump's Home Pushes Long Conflict Into Public View")
To: <maggie.haberman@nytimes.com>, Public Affairs <public.affairs@nara.gov>

Ms. Haberman:

In yesterday's article, the National Archives and Records Administration's involvement is misstated. You wrote, "In January of this year, an official for the National Archives flew to Florida and retrieved 15 boxes of documents, gifts and other government property." However, no one from the National Archives flew to Florida or has been to Mar-a-Lago.

More information is available in [our previously released statements](#), and we request a correction be made to the published article.

Thank you.

Public and Media Communications staff
National Archives and Records Administration

public.affairs@nara.gov Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

[Sign up to receive National Archives News via email.](#)

From: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/10/2022 02:40:06 PM
To: NARA Executive Secretariat <Execsec@nara.gov>; Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
Attachments: 2022-08-10 - NARA- MAL.pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:29 PM
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Ms. Wall,

Please see the attached letter from Congressman James Comer, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. This letter is also signed by Republican Members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing back from you. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 10, 2022

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Ms. Wall:

On August 8, 2022, several dozen Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents descended upon Mar-a-Lago—the private residence of former President Donald J. Trump. According to media reports, the FBI executed a search warrant to retrieve “documents sought by the National Archives [and Records Administration]” (NARA).¹ Law enforcement raiding a former president’s residence is unprecedented. Committee Republicans are concerned that NARA would utilize the FBI to gather documents that the president, by the very nature of his constitutional role, could declassify himself, if this was indeed the case as media has reported. The Biden Administration is continuing to weaponize the FBI against political rivals. To better understand the circumstances and NARA’s role, if any, in the FBI raid, Oversight Republicans request an immediate briefing on this matter. Additionally, we request that you ensure preservation of all documents and communications referring or relating to the warrant executed by the FBI on August 8, 2022 at Mar-a-Lago.

The FBI and NARA’s actions—apparently to enforce the Presidential Records Act (PRA)—are so contrary to the customary treatment of former administrations that it begs scrutiny into whether a political motivation underlay the raid. According to President Trump, the unannounced raid on his home occurred the morning of August 8, when President Trump was not home, and included breaking into his safe.² Additionally, President Trump stated he has been “working and cooperating” with the relevant agencies, which is corroborated by previous reporting of NARA’s January 2022 retrieval of 15 boxes of documents from Mar-a-Lago, which were mostly “mementos, gifts, letters from world leaders and other correspondence.”³ As noted

¹ Eric Beech, *Eric Trump: FBI raid conducted over documents sought by National Archives*, REUTERS (Aug. 8, 2022); see also Alex Leary, Sadie Gurman and Aruna Viswanatha, *FBI Searches Trump’s Florida Home Mar-a-Lago in Document Investigation*, WALL ST. J. (Aug. 9, 2022).

² Statement by Donald J. Trump, 45th President of the United States, Aug. 8, 2022, available at https://saveamerica.nucleusemail.com/amplify/v/XeHZxcJVhW?hids=BP4DIIjL6k&utm_medium=email_hf&utm_source=ncl__&utm_campaign=20220808__sa&utm_content=__4736&_nlid=P3ZmaFXGvZ&_nhids=BP4DIIjL6k.

³ Jacqueline Alemany, Josh Dawsey, Tom Hamburger and Ashley Parker, *National Archives had to retrieve Trump White House records from Mar-a-Lago*, WASH. POST (Feb. 7, 2022).

Acting Archivist Wall
August 10, 2022
Page 2 of 5

in February, “[a]ll recent administrations have had some Presidential Records Act violations...[and] White House documents from multiple administrations have been retrieved by the Archives after a president has left office.”⁴ For example, Hillary and President Bill Clinton “had to return thousands of dollars worth of gifts...[and] the Clintons left the White House with \$28,000 in furnishings” from the White House.⁵

NARA’s singling out of President Trump’s handling of official records stands starkly in contrast to the way NARA has treated far clearer violations committed by politicians and officials who are not Republicans. As has been widely reported for years, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton “did not have a government email address during her four-year tenure at the State Department[,]”⁶ aides “took no actions to have her personal emails preserved...as required by the Federal Records Act[,]”⁷ and emails included classified information,⁸ but faced no repercussions—let alone an FBI raid—which demands an explanation for the disparate treatment received by President Trump, her once-rival. Since Hillary Clinton has never been President of the United States, she had a much more limited ability to declassify documents than President Trump, who was chief executive. Secretary Clinton also deleted over 31,000 emails after receiving a subpoena for them by the House Select Committee on Benghazi, which was met with the FBI’s apathy.⁹ Committee Republicans are content to leave Secretary Clinton to her retirement, yet the FBI and NARA’s behavior towards President Trump deserves an explanation as to why the latter deserved a raid by the FBI.

Committee Republicans demand answers about the FBI and NARA’s investigation of President Trump and any coordination between the two agencies. The seeming weaponization of the federal government against President Biden’s political rivals cannot go unchecked, and if NARA is working to further these efforts, it will be only the latest agency to lose its credibility in the eyes of the American people under the Biden Administration. To assist Committee Republicans in conducting oversight over NARA’s participation in this shameful episode in American history, please make arrangements to provide a Member-level briefing as soon as possible, but no later than August 17, 2022.

Additionally, please provide the following documents, covering the time period from January 20, 2021 to the present, no later than August 24, 2022:

1. All documents and communications between any employee or agent of NARA and the FBI or Department of Justice, including the Offices of the United States Attorneys, regarding former President Trump;

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Michael S. Schmidt, *Hillary Clinton Used Personal Email Account at State Dept., Possibly Breaking Rules*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 2, 2015).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *FBI recommends no charges against Hillary Clinton over emails*, BBC NEWS (Jul. 6, 2016).

⁹ *Id.*

Acting Archivist Wall

August 10, 2022

Page 3 of 5

2. All documents and communications between or among employees or agents of NARA regarding any documents in the possession of former President Trump;
3. All documents produced or contributed to by any employee or agent of NARA and submitted to a U.S. federal district court, magistrate, or judge; and
4. All documents and communications sufficient to show the process by which NARA collects documents after a presidential transition.

In addition, we request that you preserve all responsive documents, communications, and other data (“records”) that may be required for our oversight and investigative duties. Accordingly, we request that you:

1. Preserve all e-mail, electronic documents, and data (“electronic records”) **from January 20, 2021** related to former President Trump’s papers. For the purposes of this request, “preserve” means taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, or mutation of electronic records, as well as negligent or intentional handling that would make such records incomplete or inaccessible;
2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify former employees and contractors, subcontractors and consultants who may have access to such electronic records that they are to be preserved; and
3. If it is the routine practice of any agency employee or contractor to destroy or otherwise alter such electronic records, either halt such practices or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates or copies of such records, suitable for production if requested.

To schedule the briefing or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Reform has specific jurisdiction over NARA under House Rule X. Additionally, the Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations

Acting Archivist Wall

August 10, 2022

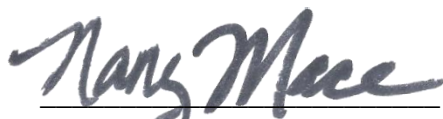
Page 4 of 5



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



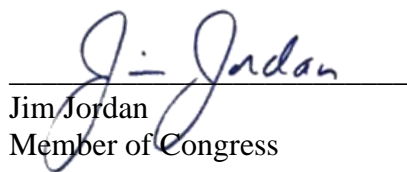
Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



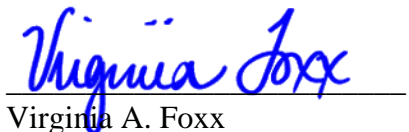
Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties



Yvette Herrell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment



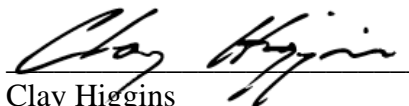
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



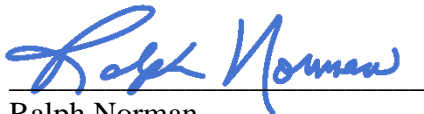
Virginia A. Foxx
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



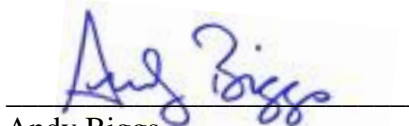
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

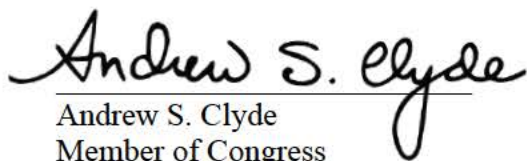


Fred Keller
Member of Congress





Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

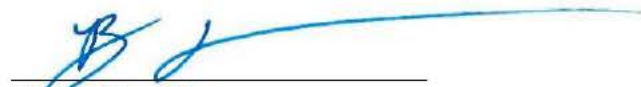
Acting Archivist Wall
August 10, 2022
Page 5 of 5


Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress


C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress


Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress


Pat Fallon
Member of Congress


Byron Donalds
Member of Congress


Mike Flood
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

2022-08-10 - NARA - MAI - pdf

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/10/2022 02:47:26 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>@nara.gov
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
Attachments: 2022-08-10 - NARA- MAL.pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:40 PM
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: NARA Executive Secretariat <Execsec@nara.gov>, Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>, Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>, William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:29 PM
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Ms. Wall,

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Thank you,

(b) (6)

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Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer
2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
 MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 10, 2022

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 Acting Archivist of the United States
 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
 Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Ms. Wall:

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The FBI and NARA’s actions—apparently to enforce the Presidential Records Act (PRA)—are so contrary to the customary treatment of former administrations that it begs scrutiny into whether a political motivation underlay the raid. According to President Trump, the unannounced raid on his home occurred the morning of August 8, when President Trump was not home, and included breaking into his safe.² Additionally, President Trump stated he has been “working and cooperating” with the relevant agencies, which is corroborated by previous reporting of NARA’s January 2022 retrieval of 15 boxes of documents from Mar-a-Lago, which were mostly “mementos, gifts, letters from world leaders and other correspondence.”³ As noted

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² Statement by Donald J. Trump, 45th President of the United States, Aug. 8, 2022, available at https://saveamerica.nucleusemail.com/amplify/v/XeHZxcJVhW?hids=BP4DIIjL6k&utm_medium=email_hf&utm_source=ncl__&utm_campaign=20220808__sa&utm_content=__4736&_nlid=P3ZmaFXGvZ&_nhids=BP4DIIjL6k.

³ Jacqueline Alemany, Josh Dawsey, Tom Hamburger and Ashley Parker, *National Archives had to retrieve Trump White House records from Mar-a-Lago*, WASH. POST (Feb. 7, 2022).

Acting Archivist Wall
August 10, 2022
Page 2 of 5

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Acting Archivist Wall

August 10, 2022

Page 3 of 5

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Sincerely,



James Comer
 Ranking Member
 Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Government
 Operations

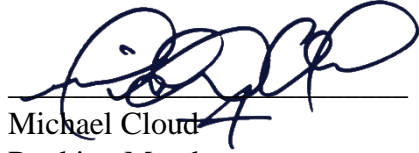
Acting Archivist Wall

August 10, 2022

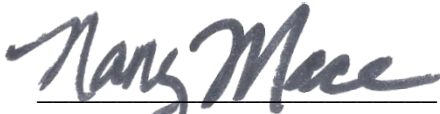
Page 4 of 5



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



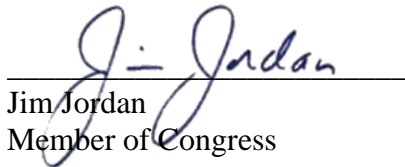
Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



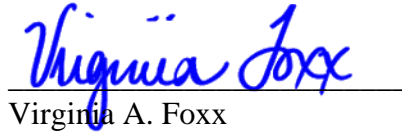
Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties



Yvette Herrell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment



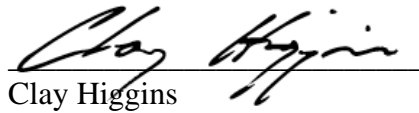
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Virginia A. Foxx
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



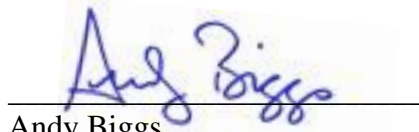
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

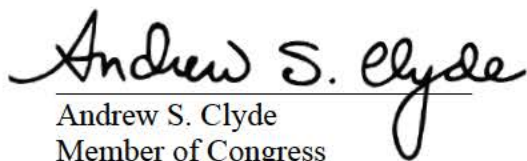


Fred Keller
Member of Congress





Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

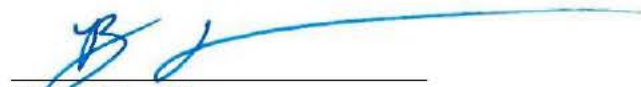
Acting Archivist Wall
August 10, 2022
Page 5 of 5


Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress


C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress


Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress


Pat Fallon
Member of Congress


Byron Donalds
Member of Congress


Mike Flood
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

2022-08-10 - NARA - MAI - pdf

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) >
Sent time: 08/10/2022 02:52 55 PM
To: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>; Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @nara.gov; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; ExecSec <ExecSec@nara.gov>
Cc: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @nara.gov
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
Attachments: image001.png 2022-08-10 - NARA- MAL.pdf

Hey all,

New inquiry from House Oversight Republicans about Monday's FBI operation. Asking for a Member briefing by August 17, and a list of documents.

(b) (6)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) gov
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:29 PM
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) >

Ms. Wall,

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Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

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(b) (6)
(b) (6)
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Office (b) (6)

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
 MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 10, 2022

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
 Acting Archivist of the United States
 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
 Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Ms. Wall:

On August 8, 2022, several dozen Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents descended upon Mar-a-Lago—the private residence of former President Donald J. Trump. According to media reports, the FBI executed a search warrant to retrieve “documents sought by the National Archives [and Records Administration]” (NARA).¹ Law enforcement raiding a former president’s residence is unprecedented. Committee Republicans are concerned that NARA would utilize the FBI to gather documents that the president, by the very nature of his constitutional role, could declassify himself, if this was indeed the case as media has reported. The Biden Administration is continuing to weaponize the FBI against political rivals. To better understand the circumstances and NARA’s role, if any, in the FBI raid, Oversight Republicans request an immediate briefing on this matter. Additionally, we request that you ensure preservation of all documents and communications referring or relating to the warrant executed by the FBI on August 8, 2022 at Mar-a-Lago.

The FBI and NARA’s actions—apparently to enforce the Presidential Records Act (PRA)—are so contrary to the customary treatment of former administrations that it begs scrutiny into whether a political motivation underlay the raid. According to President Trump, the unannounced raid on his home occurred the morning of August 8, when President Trump was not home, and included breaking into his safe.² Additionally, President Trump stated he has been “working and cooperating” with the relevant agencies, which is corroborated by previous reporting of NARA’s January 2022 retrieval of 15 boxes of documents from Mar-a-Lago, which were mostly “mementos, gifts, letters from world leaders and other correspondence.”³ As noted

¹ Eric Beech, *Eric Trump: FBI raid conducted over documents sought by National Archives*, REUTERS (Aug. 8, 2022); see also Alex Leary, Sadie Gurman and Aruna Viswanatha, *FBI Searches Trump’s Florida Home Mar-a-Lago in Document Investigation*, WALL ST. J. (Aug. 9, 2022).

² Statement by Donald J. Trump, 45th President of the United States, Aug. 8, 2022, available at https://saveamerica.nucleusemail.com/amplify/v/XeHZxcJVhW?hids=BP4DI1jL6k&utm_medium=email_hf&utm_source=ncl__&utm_campaign=20220808__sa&utm_content=__4736&_nlid=P3ZmaFXGvZ&_nhids=BP4DI1jL6k.

³ Jacqueline Alemany, Josh Dawsey, Tom Hamburger and Ashley Parker, *National Archives had to retrieve Trump White House records from Mar-a-Lago*, WASH. POST (Feb. 7, 2022).

Acting Archivist Wall
August 10, 2022
Page 2 of 5

in February, “[a]ll recent administrations have had some Presidential Records Act violations...[and] White House documents from multiple administrations have been retrieved by the Archives after a president has left office.”⁴ For example, Hillary and President Bill Clinton “had to return thousands of dollars worth of gifts...[and] the Clintons left the White House with \$28,000 in furnishings” from the White House.⁵

NARA’s singling out of President Trump’s handling of official records stands starkly in contrast to the way NARA has treated far clearer violations committed by politicians and officials who are not Republicans. As has been widely reported for years, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton “did not have a government email address during her four-year tenure at the State Department[,]”⁶ aides “took no actions to have her personal emails preserved...as required by the Federal Records Act[,]”⁷ and emails included classified information,⁸ but faced no repercussions—let alone an FBI raid—which demands an explanation for the disparate treatment received by President Trump, her once-rival. Since Hillary Clinton has never been President of the United States, she had a much more limited ability to declassify documents than President Trump, who was chief executive. Secretary Clinton also deleted over 31,000 emails after receiving a subpoena for them by the House Select Committee on Benghazi, which was met with the FBI’s apathy.⁹ Committee Republicans are content to leave Secretary Clinton to her retirement, yet the FBI and NARA’s behavior towards President Trump deserves an explanation as to why the latter deserved a raid by the FBI.

Committee Republicans demand answers about the FBI and NARA’s investigation of President Trump and any coordination between the two agencies. The seeming weaponization of the federal government against President Biden’s political rivals cannot go unchecked, and if NARA is working to further these efforts, it will be only the latest agency to lose its credibility in the eyes of the American people under the Biden Administration. To assist Committee Republicans in conducting oversight over NARA’s participation in this shameful episode in American history, please make arrangements to provide a Member-level briefing as soon as possible, but no later than August 17, 2022.

Additionally, please provide the following documents, covering the time period from January 20, 2021 to the present, no later than August 24, 2022:

1. All documents and communications between any employee or agent of NARA and the FBI or Department of Justice, including the Offices of the United States Attorneys, regarding former President Trump;

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Michael S. Schmidt, *Hillary Clinton Used Personal Email Account at State Dept., Possibly Breaking Rules*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 2, 2015).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *FBI recommends no charges against Hillary Clinton over emails*, BBC NEWS (Jul. 6, 2016).

⁹ *Id.*

Acting Archivist Wall

August 10, 2022

Page 3 of 5

2. All documents and communications between or among employees or agents of NARA regarding any documents in the possession of former President Trump;
3. All documents produced or contributed to by any employee or agent of NARA and submitted to a U.S. federal district court, magistrate, or judge; and
4. All documents and communications sufficient to show the process by which NARA collects documents after a presidential transition.

In addition, we request that you preserve all responsive documents, communications, and other data (“records”) that may be required for our oversight and investigative duties. Accordingly, we request that you:

1. Preserve all e-mail, electronic documents, and data (“electronic records”) **from January 20, 2021** related to former President Trump’s papers. For the purposes of this request, “preserve” means taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, or mutation of electronic records, as well as negligent or intentional handling that would make such records incomplete or inaccessible;
2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify former employees and contractors, subcontractors and consultants who may have access to such electronic records that they are to be preserved; and
3. If it is the routine practice of any agency employee or contractor to destroy or otherwise alter such electronic records, either halt such practices or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates or copies of such records, suitable for production if requested.

To schedule the briefing or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Reform has specific jurisdiction over NARA under House Rule X. Additionally, the Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations

2022-08-10 - NARA-MAI-.pdf

Acting Archivist Wall

August 10, 2022

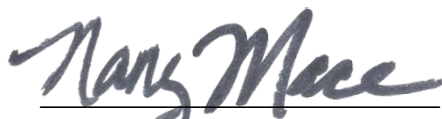
Page 4 of 5



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



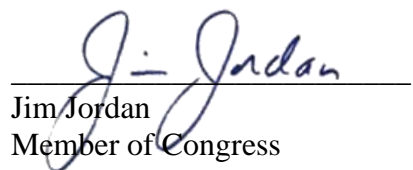
Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



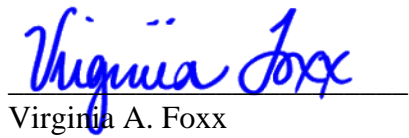
Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties



Yvette Herrell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment



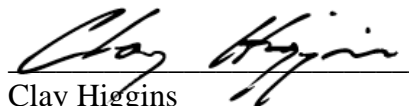
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



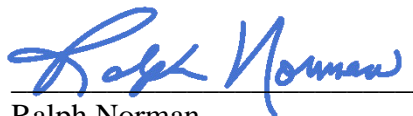
Virginia A. Foxx
Member of Congress



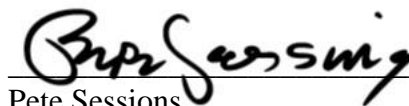
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



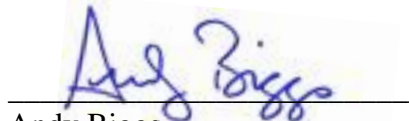
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

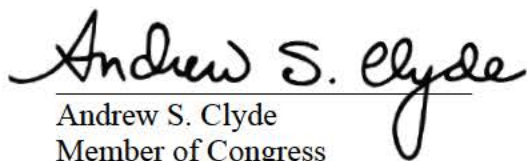


Fred Keller
Member of Congress





Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

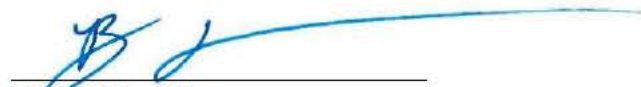
Acting Archivist Wall
August 10, 2022
Page 5 of 5


Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress


C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress


Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress


Pat Fallon
Member of Congress


Byron Donalds
Member of Congress


Mike Flood
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

2022-08-10 - NARA - MAI - pdf

From: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/10/2022 03:51:04 PM
To: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
Attachments: 2022-08-10 - NARA- MAL.pdf

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:40 PM
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: NARA Executive Secretariat <Execsec@nara.gov>, Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>, Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>, William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:29 PM
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Ms. Wall,

Please see the attached letter from Congressman James Comer, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. This letter is also signed by Republican Members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing back from you. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
 MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

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The FBI and NARA’s actions—apparently to enforce the Presidential Records Act (PRA)—are so contrary to the customary treatment of former administrations that it begs scrutiny into whether a political motivation underlay the raid. According to President Trump, the unannounced raid on his home occurred the morning of August 8, when President Trump was not home, and included breaking into his safe.² Additionally, President Trump stated he has been “working and cooperating” with the relevant agencies, which is corroborated by previous reporting of NARA’s January 2022 retrieval of 15 boxes of documents from Mar-a-Lago, which were mostly “mementos, gifts, letters from world leaders and other correspondence.”³ As noted

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² Statement by Donald J. Trump, 45th President of the United States, Aug. 8, 2022, available at https://saveamerica.nucleusemail.com/amplify/v/XeHZxcJVhW?hids=BP4DIIjL6k&utm_medium=email_hf&utm_source=ncl__&utm_campaign=20220808__sa&utm_content=__4736&_nlid=P3ZmaFXGvZ&_nhids=BP4DIIjL6k.

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Acting Archivist Wall
August 10, 2022
Page 2 of 5

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Acting Archivist Wall

August 10, 2022

Page 3 of 5

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Sincerely,



James Comer
 Ranking Member
 Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Government
 Operations

Acting Archivist Wall

August 10, 2022

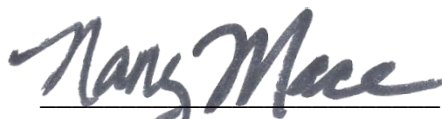
Page 4 of 5



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



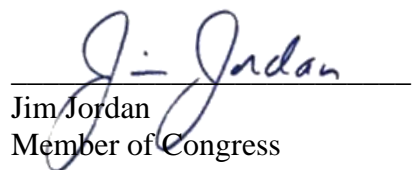
Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



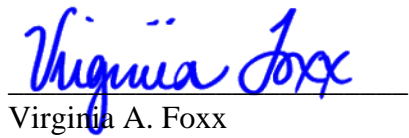
Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties



Yvette Herrell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment



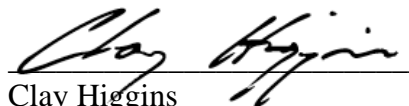
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



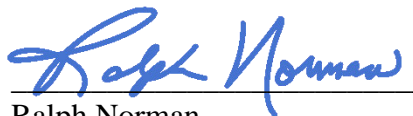
Virginia A. Foxx
Member of Congress



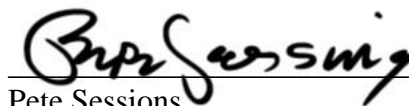
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



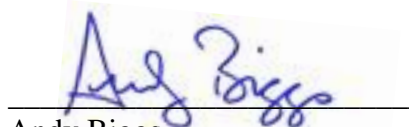
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



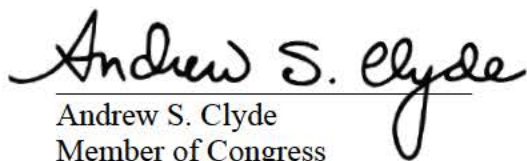
Fred Keller
Member of Congress




Andy Biggs
Member of Congress


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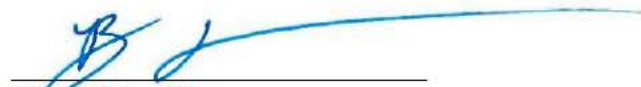
Acting Archivist Wall
August 10, 2022
Page 5 of 5


Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress


C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress


Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress


Pat Fallon
Member of Congress


Byron Donalds
Member of Congress


Mike Flood
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

2022-08-10 - NARA - MAI - pdf

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/10/2022 06:26:22 PM
To: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: NARA Executive Secretariat <Execsec@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov; (b) (6) @nara.gov; (b) (6) @nara.gov; (b) (6) @nara.gov; groups.archive7@nara.gov; (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

FYI, I just shared with each of you, and Valchy, a draft google doc that could be used to respond to this and the other Hill letter, as well as for a possible press/public statement on this issue.

Let me know what you think.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:40 PM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:29 PM
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Ms. Wall,

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Thank you,
(b) (6)

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

From: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/10/2022 08:28:58 PM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>; NARA Executive Secretariat <Execsec@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

Looks good to me. I asked one question in the doc. (b) (5)

Thanks, Gary.

Maria

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 6:26 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:
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Let me know what you think.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:40 PM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)> Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:29 PM

Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6)

(b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Ms. Wall,

Please see the attached letter from Congressman James Comer, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. This letter is also signed by Republican Members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing back from you. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) | (b) (6)

Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

From: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/10/2022 08:39:32 PM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>; NARA Executive Secretariat <Execsec@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov; (b) (6) @nara.gov; (b) (6) @nara.gov; (b) (6) @nara.gov; groups.archive7@nara.gov; (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To clarify - (b) (5)

?

Thanks

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 8:28 PM Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov> wrote:

Looks good to me. I asked one question in the doc. (b) (5)

Thanks, Gary.

Maria

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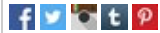
On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 6:26 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

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Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

From: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/10/2022 08:48:00 PM
To: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

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Cc: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>, NARA Executive Secretariat <Execsec@nara.gov>, Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>

To clarify - (b) (5)

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Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

From: William Bosanko (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 08/10/2022 09:19:54 PM
To: garym.stern@nara.gov
Subject: NARA Letter/Statement Concerning Trump Presidential Records

New activity in the following document

 NARA Letter/Statement Concerning Trump Presidential Records

 3 suggestions



William Bosanko • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Replace: (b) (5) with (b) (5) ”

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



William Bosanko • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Add: “15”

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



William Bosanko • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Add: (b) (5) ”

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because you are a participant in the updated items or subscribed to notifications on [NARA Letter/Statement Concerning Trump Presidential Records](#). [Change what Google sends you](#). You cannot reply to this email.



From: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/10/2022 09:24:36 PM
To: Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FW: Letter
Attachments: 2022.08.09_Acting Archivist_Records Production and Preservation.pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 4:34 PM
Subject: Re: FW: Letter
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Cc: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>, Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, Donius, Susan <susan.donius@nara.gov>, Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>, Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>, John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>, Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>, NARA Executive Secretariat <Execsec@nara.gov>

Adding Maria, Valchy, and exec sec.

On Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 4:27 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov> wrote:
Inquiry from the minority of the House Intel Committee on the FBI actions in Florida yesterday--

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 4:09 PM
Subject: FW: Letter
To: (b) (6)@nara.gov <(b) (6)@nara.gov>, (b) (6)@nara.gov <(b) (6)@nara.gov>

See below

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 4:02 PM
To: john.hamilton@nara.gov
Subject: Letter

John,

Please see the attached letter.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

HPSCI

--

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Office (b) (6)



Michael R. Turner, Ohio
Ranking Member

Brad R. Wenstrup, Ohio
Chris Stewart, Utah
Rick Crawford, Arkansas
Elise M. Stefanik, New York
Markwayne Mullin, Oklahoma
Trent Kelly, Mississippi
Darin LaHood, Illinois
Brian Fitzpatrick, Pennsylvania
Mike Gallagher, Wisconsin

Kevin McCarthy, California
Republican Leader

UNCLASSIFIED
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE MINORITY

HVC-304, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4121

Adam Howard
Minority Staff Director

August 9, 2022

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Dear Acting Archivist Wall:

Yesterday, agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conducted a search of former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence, purportedly based upon a referral from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to investigate former President Donald Trump's handling of classified White House records.¹ Former Archivist David Ferriero confirmed that NARA had been in communication with the Department of Justice (DOJ) over records that were previously transferred from President Trump because classified information was allegedly found within those boxes.²

I would assume that an escalation of this magnitude – for the Bureau to obtain a court ordered-search warrant and conduct an unannounced search, for the first time in our country's history, to seize documents stored at a former President's residence – would indicate that the Federal government perceived something in those documents posed a serious, ongoing threat to our national security. As such, the substance of any communications between NARA, the FBI, and/or the DOJ, including whether any formal criminal referral was made by NARA related to what was ultimately seized by the FBI yesterday and the basis for such referral, is of keen interest to the investigative and legislative activities of this Committee.³

Please produce all documents and communications responsive to these matters to the Committee no later than August 24, 2022.

In addition, it is therefore necessary that you preserve all relevant documents and communications that may refer or relate to this matter, including those on official governmental accounts and on personal, non-governmental accounts. Specifically, this preservation request should be construed as an instruction to preserve all documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, that is or may be potentially

¹ Caroline Linton, *Trump says Mar-a-Lago was 'raided' by FBI*, CBS News (Aug. 9, 2022), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-mar-a-lago-fbi-search-warrant-raid/>.

² Letter from David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, to Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (Feb. 18, 2022).

³ H. Rule X, clause 11(c)(2).

UNCLASSIFIED

responsive to a congressional inquiry, request, investigation, or subpoena that may be initiated or otherwise undertaken by a committee of Congress or any other investigative entity.

For purposes of this request, “preserve” means securing and maintaining the integrity of all relevant documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, by taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, mutation, or negligent or reckless handling that could render the information incomplete or inaccessible. This includes preserving all compilations of documents that have already been gathered in response to requests, even if copies of individual documents may still exist elsewhere in the agency. I further request that you or your designee:

1. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify all relevant individuals, including current and former employees, officials, detailees, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants who may have had access to potentially relevant information that they should preserve and return such information to NARA;
2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify, recover, and preserve any potentially relevant electronic information that has been deleted or marked for deletion but is still recoverable;
3. Remind all relevant individuals, including current and former employees, officials, detailees, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants that any federal records sent or received using a nonofficial account must be forwarded to the agency for proper archiving, and forward all such material in your possession; and
4. If it is the routine practice of yours, or any relevant individuals, including current and former employees, officials, detailees, contractors, subcontractors, or consultants to destroy or otherwise alter potentially relevant information, either halt such practices as they relate to the potentially relevant information or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates (including metadata) of such documents, communications, or other information.

Please advise in writing as to how you will ensure all records relevant to this matter will be preserved. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Ranking Member

2022.08.09_Acting Archivist_Records Production and Preservation.pdf

From: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/10/2022 09:27:28 PM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: NARA Executive Secretariat <Execsec@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

I'm starting to work on this and am having trouble given the dual purpose. I propose we start by creating the letter for Comer and Turner, and THEN turn it into a statement. Does that seem reasonable?

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Let me know what you think.

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From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:29 PM
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

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Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/10/2022 09:28:33 PM
To: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>; NARA Executive Secretariat <Execsec@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov; (b) (6) @nara.gov; (b) (6) @nara.gov; (b) (6) @nara.gov; groups.archive7@nara.gov; (b) (6) @nara.gov
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Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074


From: Debra Wall (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 08/10/2022 09:36:08 PM
To: garym.stern@nara.gov
Subject: NARA Letter/Statement Concerning Trump Presidential Records


New activity in the following document

 NARA Letter/Statement Concerning Trump Presidential Records

 3 comments

(See attached letter from DOJ to Chairwoman Maloney.)


 Gary Stern • 6:17 PM, Aug 10 (EDT)
(b) (5)

 Debra Wall • 9:25 PM, Aug 10 (EDT) **New**
(b) (5) ?

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)


stated

 Debra Wall • 9:25 PM, Aug 10 (EDT) **New**
(b) (5)

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

2021

 Debra Wall • 9:26 PM, Aug 10 (EDT) **New**
(b) (5)

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because you are a participant in the updated items or subscribed to notifications on [NARA Letter/Statement Concerning Trump Presidential Records](#). [Change what Google sends you](#). You cannot reply to this email.



From: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/11/2022 07:12:23 AM
To: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Cc: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>; Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>; NARA Executive Secretariat <Execsec@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

I agree. Would help me, too.

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
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Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/11/2022 07:52:54 AM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

Good morning Gary,

Can you please provide me with access to this document so we can move forward with the final signature once ready? Thank you!

On Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 7:12 AM Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov> wrote:
I agree. Would help me, too.

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
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T: 202-357-5420
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Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

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National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 116

Washington, D.C. 20408-0001

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Sent time: 08/11/2022 08:12:26 AM
To: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Cc: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>; NARA Executive Secretariat <Execsec@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

Gary can you do a quick revision on the text to frame it as a letter and then we can edit. Thanks!

On Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 7:12 AM Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov> wrote:

I agree. Would help me, too.

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 9:28 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

Yes - I struggled a bit with that when I reviewed it earlier.

On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 9:27 PM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:

I'm starting to work on this and am having trouble given the dual purpose. I propose we start by creating the letter for Comer and Turner, and THEN turn it into a statement. Does that seem reasonable?

On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 6:27 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

FYI, I just shared with each of you, and Valchy, a draft google doc that could be used to respond to this and the other Hill letter, as well as for a possible press/public statement on this issue.

Let me know what you think.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:40 PM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:29 PM

Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6), (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Ms. Wall,

Please see the attached letter from Congressman James Comer, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. This letter is also signed by Republican Members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing back from you. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) | (b) (6)

Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

From: Gary Stern (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 08/11/2022 08:38:24 AM
To: william.bosanko@nara.gov
Subject: NARA Letter/Statement Concerning Trump Presidential Records

New activity in the following document

 NARA Letter/Statement Concerning Trump Presidential Records

 2 resolved

Suggestions



William Bosanko • 9:13 PM, Aug 10 (EDT)

Replace: (b) (5) " with (b) (5) "



Gary Stern • 8:32 AM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



William Bosanko • 9:13 PM, Aug 10 (EDT)

Add: "15"



Gary Stern • 8:33 AM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

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From: Gary Stern (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 08/11/2022 08:43:29 AM
To: william.bosanko@nara.gov
Subject: NARA Letter/State... - Add: "However, we have nonetheless ta..."

Gary Stern accepted a suggestion in the following document

 NARA Letter/Statement Concerning Trump Presidential Records

 1 resolved

Suggestions



William Bosanko • 9:14 PM, Aug 10 (EDT)

Add: "However, we have nonetheless taken steps to preserve responsive materials pursuant to your request."



Gary Stern • 8:38 AM, Aug 11 (EDT) New

Accepted suggestion

[Open](#)

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

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Google™

From: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/11/2022 08:44:44 AM
To: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

Got it. Thanks. Just looked at the doc. It looks like Gary is still working on it.

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 8:48 PM Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov> wrote:

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 8:39 PM
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>, NARA Executive Secretariat <Execsec@nara.gov>, Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>

To clarify (b) (5)

Thanks

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420



On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 8:28 PM Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov> wrote:

Looks good to me. I asked one question in the doc. (b) (5)

Thanks, Gary.

Maria

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff

National Archives

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106

Washington, D.C. 20408-0001

T: 202-357-5420

F: 202-357-5901



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FYI, I just shared with each of you, and Valchy, a draft google doc that could be used to respond to this and the other Hill letter, as well as for a possible press/public statement on this issue.

Let me know what you think.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern

General Counsel

National Archives and Records Administration

8601 Adelphi Road

College Park, MD 20740

(b) (6) (cell)

301-837-3026 (office)

301-837-0293 (fax)

garym.stern@nara.gov



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From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:29 PM

Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

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Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) | (b) (6)

Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/11/2022 08:47:01 AM
To: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; NARA Executive Secretariat <Execsec@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

I've reformatted the letter and addressed or accepted a lot of the previous comments and edits.

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
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Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) | (b) (6)

Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

From: Debra Wall (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 08/11/2022 11:30:54 AM
To: garym.stern@nara.gov
Subject: NARA Letter/Statement Concerning Trump Presidential Records

New activity in the following document

 NARA Letter/Statement Concerning Trump Presidential Records

 2 comments





Debra Wall • 11:15 AM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**



[Reply](#)

[Open](#)





Debra Wall • 11:16 AM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**



[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

 7 suggestions



Debra Wall • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Replace: "ederal Records Act (FRA)," with "RA,"

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Debra Wall • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Delete: "a"

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Debra Wall • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Add: "s"

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Debra Wall • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Add: (b) (5)

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Debra Wall • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Replace: "." with ","

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Debra Wall • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Add: (b) (5) [REDACTED]

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Debra Wall • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Delete space

Add: (b) (5) [REDACTED]

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

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From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/11/2022 01:26:00 PM
To: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Cc: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

Jay, (b) (5)

Please call me as soon as you can.

Thanks,
Gary

PS, I tried calling your cell, but the mailbox is full. I realized you are meeting at CIA, so will be out of pocket for a while.

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 8:47 AM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

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National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
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MARIA CAROSA STANWICH
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National Archives

Washington, D.C. 20408-0001

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301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



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----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:29 PM

Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>,

(b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

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Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

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(b) (6)

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

From: Debra Wall (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 08/11/2022 01:32:49 PM
To: garym.stern@nara.gov
Subject: NARA Letter/Statement Concerning Trump Presidential Records

New activity in the following document

 NARA Letter/Statement Concerning Trump Presidential Records

 1 suggestion

 Debra Wall • 1:13 PM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Delete space

 Debra Wall • 1:13 PM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

 11 resolved

Comments

 (b) (5)

 Debra Wall • 11:16 AM, Aug 11 (EDT)

 (b) (5)

 Debra Wall • 1:14 PM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Marked as resolved

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

Suggestions

 Gary Stern • 1:02 PM, Aug 11 (EDT)

Replace: "C" with  (b) (5)

 Debra Wall • 1:12 PM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

 Gary Stern • 1:02 PM, Aug 11 (EDT)

Delete: (b) (5)

 Debra Wall • 1:12 PM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

 Gary Stern • 1:02 PM, Aug 11 (EDT)

Delete space

 Debra Wall • 1:12 PM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

 Debra Wall • 11:20 AM, Aug 11 (EDT)

Replace: "ederal Records Act (FRA)," with "RA,"

 Debra Wall • 1:12 PM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

 Debra Wall • 11:13 AM, Aug 11 (EDT)

Delete: "a"

 Debra Wall • 1:22 PM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

 Debra Wall • 11:13 AM, Aug 11 (EDT)

Add: "s"

 Debra Wall • 1:22 PM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

 Debra Wall • 11:13 AM, Aug 11 (EDT)

Add: (b) (5) Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.



Debra Wall • 1:22 PM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Debra Wall • 11:13 AM, Aug 11 (EDT)

Replace: "." with ","



Debra Wall • 1:22 PM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Debra Wall • 11:13 AM, Aug 11 (EDT)

Add: (b) (5) [REDACTED]



Debra Wall • 1:22 PM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Debra Wall • 11:17 AM, Aug 11 (EDT)

Delete space

Add: (b) (5) [REDACTED]



Debra Wall • 1:12 PM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

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From: Debra Wall (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 08/11/2022 02:06:43 PM
To: garym.stern@nara.gov
Subject: NARA Letter/State... (b) (5)

Debra Wall resolved a comment in the following document

 NARA Letter/Statement Concerning Trump Presidential Records


 1 resolved

Comments



 Debra Wall • 11:15 AM, Aug 11 (EDT)



 Debra Wall • 1:56 PM, Aug 11 (EDT) **New**

Marked as resolved

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From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/12/2022 04:37:23 PM
To: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Cc: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>; Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: WSJ/presidential records management

Valchy, I called Jess to find out what he wanted to know. In short, he's most interested in learning about how NARA figured out that the Trump boxes/records were missing -- i.e., who did we talk to in the White House and/or did we have other means for knowing that something was missing. (Of note, he said he had watched the conferences that I spoke at last year about the Trump transition, where I discussed this issue in very general terms.)

I told him I could not comment on anything specific with respect to the issue of the missing Trump boxes and how we learned what we know.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Fri, Aug 12, 2022 at 3:22 PM John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov> wrote:

It's really up to you, if you want to do it.

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



On Fri, Aug 12, 2022 at 3:21 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

Yes, he's called and texted me. I can call him back.

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740

(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Fri, Aug 12, 2022 at 3:06 PM John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov> wrote:
Gary,

I just found this in my inbox. Do you have any interest in speaking with this reporter?

Thanks,
Valchy

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Bravin, Jess** <jess.bravin@wsj.com>
Date: Fri, Aug 12, 2022 at 12:38 PM
Subject: WSJ/presidential records management
To: <john.valceanu@nara.gov>

John, how goes? I've been asked to do an item on presidential records management, was hoping you could set me up to talk with Gary Stern today.

Jess

- - -
Jess Bravin
Supreme Court Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal - Washington
Working Remotely During Contingency
M: [646-594-1046](tel:646-594-1046)
Reach me in confidence via [Signal](#)
Twitter: [@Jess Bravin](#)
Facebook: [ByJessBravin](#)
Author Page: <https://www.wsj.com/news/author/jess-bravin>



From: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/12/2022 04:40:46 PM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>; Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: WSJ/presidential records management

OK. Sounds good, Gary. Thanks for following up and letting us know.

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
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Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.



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Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Bravin, Jess** <jess.bravin@wsj.com>
Date: Fri, Aug 12, 2022 at 12:38 PM
Subject: WSJ/presidential records management
To: <john.valceanu@nara.gov>

John, how goes? I've been asked to do an item on presidential records management, was hoping you could set me up to talk with Gary Stern today.

Jess

- - -

Jess Bravin

Supreme Court Correspondent

The Wall Street Journal - Washington

Working Remotely During Contingency

M: [646-594-1046](tel:646-594-1046)

Reach me in confidence via [Signal](#)

Twitter: [@Jess Bravin](#)

Facebook: [ByJessBravin](#)

Author Page: <https://www.wsj.com/news/author/jess-bravin>



From: John Laster <john.laster@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/14/2022 08:31:04 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FW: Letter
Attachments: image001.png 2022.08.09_Acting Archivist_Records Production and Preservation.pdf

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (5), (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 4:26 PM
Subject: Fwd: FW: Letter
To: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>, Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>, Donius, Susan <susan.donius@nara.gov>, Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>
Cc: Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>

Inquiry from the minority of the House Intel Committee on the FBI actions in Florida yesterday--

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 4:09 PM
Subject: FW: Letter
To: (b) (6)@nara.gov <(b) (6)@nara.gov>, (b) (6)@nara.gov <(b) (6)@nara.gov>

See below

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 4:02 PM
To: john.hamilton@nara.gov
Subject: Letter

John,

Please see the attached letter.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

HPSCI

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(b) (6)
(b) (6)

National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

Office (b) (6)



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John Laster
Director, White House Liaison Division
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
(b) (6) (c)
john.laster@nara.gov

Michael R. Turner, Ohio
Ranking Member

Brad R. Wenstrup, Ohio
Chris Stewart, Utah
Rick Crawford, Arkansas
Elise M. Stefanik, New York
Markwayne Mullin, Oklahoma
Trent Kelly, Mississippi
Darin LaHood, Illinois
Brian Fitzpatrick, Pennsylvania
Mike Gallagher, Wisconsin

Kevin McCarthy, California
Republican Leader

UNCLASSIFIED
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE MINORITY

HVC-304, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4121

Adam Howard
Minority Staff Director

August 9, 2022

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Dear Acting Archivist Wall:

Yesterday, agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conducted a search of former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence, purportedly based upon a referral from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to investigate former President Donald Trump's handling of classified White House records.¹ Former Archivist David Ferriero confirmed that NARA had been in communication with the Department of Justice (DOJ) over records that were previously transferred from President Trump because classified information was allegedly found within those boxes.²

I would assume that an escalation of this magnitude – for the Bureau to obtain a court ordered-search warrant and conduct an unannounced search, for the first time in our country's history, to seize documents stored at a former President's residence – would indicate that the Federal government perceived something in those documents posed a serious, ongoing threat to our national security. As such, the substance of any communications between NARA, the FBI, and/or the DOJ, including whether any formal criminal referral was made by NARA related to what was ultimately seized by the FBI yesterday and the basis for such referral, is of keen interest to the investigative and legislative activities of this Committee.³

Please produce all documents and communications responsive to these matters to the Committee no later than August 24, 2022.

In addition, it is therefore necessary that you preserve all relevant documents and communications that may refer or relate to this matter, including those on official governmental accounts and on personal, non-governmental accounts. Specifically, this preservation request should be construed as an instruction to preserve all documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, that is or may be potentially

¹ Caroline Linton, *Trump says Mar-a-Lago was 'raided' by FBI*, CBS News (Aug. 9, 2022), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-mar-a-lago-fbi-search-warrant-raid/>.

² Letter from David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, to Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (Feb. 18, 2022).

³ H. Rule X, clause 11(c)(2).

2022.08.09_Acting Archivist_Records Production and Preservation.pdf

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responsive to a congressional inquiry, request, investigation, or subpoena that may be initiated or otherwise undertaken by a committee of Congress or any other investigative entity.

For purposes of this request, “preserve” means securing and maintaining the integrity of all relevant documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, by taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, mutation, or negligent or reckless handling that could render the information incomplete or inaccessible. This includes preserving all compilations of documents that have already been gathered in response to requests, even if copies of individual documents may still exist elsewhere in the agency. I further request that you or your designee:

1. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify all relevant individuals, including current and former employees, officials, detailees, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants who may have had access to potentially relevant information that they should preserve and return such information to NARA;
2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify, recover, and preserve any potentially relevant electronic information that has been deleted or marked for deletion but is still recoverable;
3. Remind all relevant individuals, including current and former employees, officials, detailees, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants that any federal records sent or received using a nonofficial account must be forwarded to the agency for proper archiving, and forward all such material in your possession; and
4. If it is the routine practice of yours, or any relevant individuals, including current and former employees, officials, detailees, contractors, subcontractors, or consultants to destroy or otherwise alter potentially relevant information, either halt such practices as they relate to the potentially relevant information or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates (including metadata) of such documents, communications, or other information.

Please advise in writing as to how you will ensure all records relevant to this matter will be preserved. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Ranking Member

From: John Laster <john.laster@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/14/2022 11:20:19 PM
To: Susan Donius <susan.donius@nara.gov>; Harris, Merrily <merrily.harris@nara.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>; Stephanie Oriabure <stephannie.oriabure@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
Attachments: image001.png 2022-08-10 - NARA- MAL.pdf

I don't know if you received this. Just seeing this myself.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:53 PM
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>, Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>, John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>, Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>, ExecSec <ExecSec@nara.gov>
Cc: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>, Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>

Hey all,

New inquiry from House Oversight Republicans about Monday's FBI operation. Asking for a Member briefing by August 17, and a list of documents.

(b) (6)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:29 PM
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Ms. Wall,

Please see the attached letter from Congressman James Comer, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. This letter is also signed by Republican Members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing back from you. Please acknowledge receipt of his letter.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer
2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

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--
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Office (b) (6)

--
John Laster
Director, White House Liaison Division
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
 MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 10, 2022

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
 Acting Archivist of the United States
 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
 Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Ms. Wall:

On August 8, 2022, several dozen Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents descended upon Mar-a-Lago—the private residence of former President Donald J. Trump. According to media reports, the FBI executed a search warrant to retrieve “documents sought by the National Archives [and Records Administration]” (NARA).¹ Law enforcement raiding a former president’s residence is unprecedented. Committee Republicans are concerned that NARA would utilize the FBI to gather documents that the president, by the very nature of his constitutional role, could declassify himself, if this was indeed the case as media has reported. The Biden Administration is continuing to weaponize the FBI against political rivals. To better understand the circumstances and NARA’s role, if any, in the FBI raid, Oversight Republicans request an immediate briefing on this matter. Additionally, we request that you ensure preservation of all documents and communications referring or relating to the warrant executed by the FBI on August 8, 2022 at Mar-a-Lago.

The FBI and NARA’s actions—apparently to enforce the Presidential Records Act (PRA)—are so contrary to the customary treatment of former administrations that it begs scrutiny into whether a political motivation underlay the raid. According to President Trump, the unannounced raid on his home occurred the morning of August 8, when President Trump was not home, and included breaking into his safe.² Additionally, President Trump stated he has been “working and cooperating” with the relevant agencies, which is corroborated by previous reporting of NARA’s January 2022 retrieval of 15 boxes of documents from Mar-a-Lago, which were mostly “mementos, gifts, letters from world leaders and other correspondence.”³ As noted

¹ Eric Beech, *Eric Trump: FBI raid conducted over documents sought by National Archives*, REUTERS (Aug. 8, 2022); see also Alex Leary, Sadie Gurman and Aruna Viswanatha, *FBI Searches Trump’s Florida Home Mar-a-Lago in Document Investigation*, WALL ST. J. (Aug. 9, 2022).

² Statement by Donald J. Trump, 45th President of the United States, Aug. 8, 2022, available at https://saveamerica.nucleusemail.com/amplify/v/XeHZxcJVhW?hids=BP4DI1jL6k&utm_medium=email_hf&utm_source=ncl__&utm_campaign=20220808__sa&utm_content=__4736&_nlid=P3ZmaFXGvZ&_nhids=BP4DI1jL6k.

³ Jacqueline Alemany, Josh Dawsey, Tom Hamburger and Ashley Parker, *National Archives had to retrieve Trump White House records from Mar-a-Lago*, WASH. POST (Feb. 7, 2022).

Acting Archivist Wall
 August 10, 2022
 Page 2 of 5

in February, “[a]ll recent administrations have had some Presidential Records Act violations...[and] White House documents from multiple administrations have been retrieved by the Archives after a president has left office.”⁴ For example, Hillary and President Bill Clinton “had to return thousands of dollars worth of gifts...[and] the Clintons left the White House with \$28,000 in furnishings” from the White House.⁵

NARA’s singling out of President Trump’s handling of official records stands starkly in contrast to the way NARA has treated far clearer violations committed by politicians and officials who are not Republicans. As has been widely reported for years, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton “did not have a government email address during her four-year tenure at the State Department[,]”⁶ aides “took no actions to have her personal emails preserved...as required by the Federal Records Act[,]”⁷ and emails included classified information,⁸ but faced no repercussions—let alone an FBI raid—which demands an explanation for the disparate treatment received by President Trump, her once-rival. Since Hillary Clinton has never been President of the United States, she had a much more limited ability to declassify documents than President Trump, who was chief executive. Secretary Clinton also deleted over 31,000 emails after receiving a subpoena for them by the House Select Committee on Benghazi, which was met with the FBI’s apathy.⁹ Committee Republicans are content to leave Secretary Clinton to her retirement, yet the FBI and NARA’s behavior towards President Trump deserves an explanation as to why the latter deserved a raid by the FBI.

Committee Republicans demand answers about the FBI and NARA’s investigation of President Trump and any coordination between the two agencies. The seeming weaponization of the federal government against President Biden’s political rivals cannot go unchecked, and if NARA is working to further these efforts, it will be only the latest agency to lose its credibility in the eyes of the American people under the Biden Administration. To assist Committee Republicans in conducting oversight over NARA’s participation in this shameful episode in American history, please make arrangements to provide a Member-level briefing as soon as possible, but no later than August 17, 2022.

Additionally, please provide the following documents, covering the time period from January 20, 2021 to the present, no later than August 24, 2022:

1. All documents and communications between any employee or agent of NARA and the FBI or Department of Justice, including the Offices of the United States Attorneys, regarding former President Trump;

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Michael S. Schmidt, *Hillary Clinton Used Personal Email Account at State Dept., Possibly Breaking Rules*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 2, 2015).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *FBI recommends no charges against Hillary Clinton over emails*, BBC NEWS (Jul. 6, 2016).

⁹ *Id.*

Acting Archivist Wall

August 10, 2022

Page 3 of 5

2. All documents and communications between or among employees or agents of NARA regarding any documents in the possession of former President Trump;
3. All documents produced or contributed to by any employee or agent of NARA and submitted to a U.S. federal district court, magistrate, or judge; and
4. All documents and communications sufficient to show the process by which NARA collects documents after a presidential transition.

In addition, we request that you preserve all responsive documents, communications, and other data (“records”) that may be required for our oversight and investigative duties. Accordingly, we request that you:

1. Preserve all e-mail, electronic documents, and data (“electronic records”) **from January 20, 2021** related to former President Trump’s papers. For the purposes of this request, “preserve” means taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, or mutation of electronic records, as well as negligent or intentional handling that would make such records incomplete or inaccessible;
2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify former employees and contractors, subcontractors and consultants who may have access to such electronic records that they are to be preserved; and
3. If it is the routine practice of any agency employee or contractor to destroy or otherwise alter such electronic records, either halt such practices or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates or copies of such records, suitable for production if requested.

To schedule the briefing or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Reform has specific jurisdiction over NARA under House Rule X. Additionally, the Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations

2022-08-10 - NARA-MAI-.pdf

Acting Archivist Wall

August 10, 2022

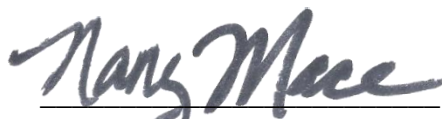
Page 4 of 5



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



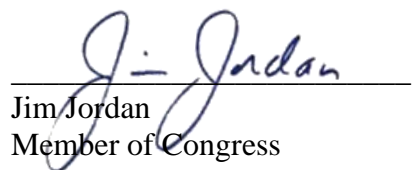
Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



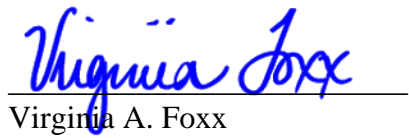
Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties



Yvette Herrell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment



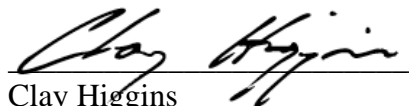
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



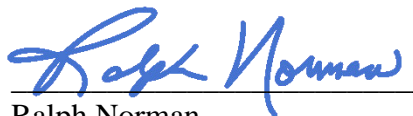
Virginia A. Foxx
Member of Congress



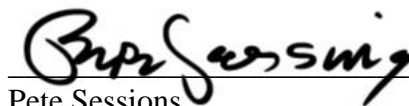
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



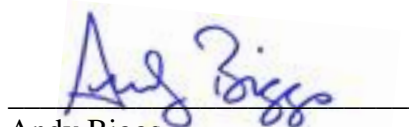
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

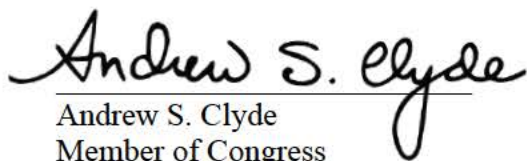


Fred Keller
Member of Congress





Andy Biggs
Member of Congress


Acting Archivist Wall
August 10, 2022
Page 5 of 5


Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress


C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress


Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress


Pat Fallon
Member of Congress


Byron Donalds
Member of Congress


Mike Flood
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

From: Susan Donius <susan.donius@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/15/2022 08:19:59 AM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
Attachments: image001.png 2022-08-10 - NARA- MAL.pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Laster <john.laster@nara.gov>
Date: Sun, Aug 14, 2022, 11:20 PM
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: Susan Donius <susan.donius@nara.gov>, Harris, Merrily <merrily.harris@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>, Stephannie Oriabure <stephannie.oriabure@nara.gov>

I don't know if you received this. Just seeing this myself.

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Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:53 PM
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>, Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>, John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>, Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>, ExecSec <ExecSec@nara.gov>
Cc: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>, Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>

Hey all,

New inquiry from House Oversight Republicans about Monday's FBI operation. Asking for a Member briefing by August 17, and a list of documents.

(b) (6)

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To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

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Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer
2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

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(b) (6)
(b) (6)
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Office (b) (6)



--

John Laster
Director, White House Liaison Division
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

(b) (6) (c)

john.laster@nara.gov

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 10, 2022

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Ms. Wall:

On August 8, 2022, several dozen Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents descended upon Mar-a-Lago—the private residence of former President Donald J. Trump. According to media reports, the FBI executed a search warrant to retrieve “documents sought by the National Archives [and Records Administration]” (NARA).¹ Law enforcement raiding a former president’s residence is unprecedented. Committee Republicans are concerned that NARA would utilize the FBI to gather documents that the president, by the very nature of his constitutional role, could declassify himself, if this was indeed the case as media has reported. The Biden Administration is continuing to weaponize the FBI against political rivals. To better understand the circumstances and NARA’s role, if any, in the FBI raid, Oversight Republicans request an immediate briefing on this matter. Additionally, we request that you ensure preservation of all documents and communications referring or relating to the warrant executed by the FBI on August 8, 2022 at Mar-a-Lago.

The FBI and NARA’s actions—apparently to enforce the Presidential Records Act (PRA)—are so contrary to the customary treatment of former administrations that it begs scrutiny into whether a political motivation underlay the raid. According to President Trump, the unannounced raid on his home occurred the morning of August 8, when President Trump was not home, and included breaking into his safe.² Additionally, President Trump stated he has been “working and cooperating” with the relevant agencies, which is corroborated by previous reporting of NARA’s January 2022 retrieval of 15 boxes of documents from Mar-a-Lago, which were mostly “mementos, gifts, letters from world leaders and other correspondence.”³ As noted

¹ Eric Beech, *Eric Trump: FBI raid conducted over documents sought by National Archives*, REUTERS (Aug. 8, 2022); see also Alex Leary, Sadie Gurman and Aruna Viswanatha, *FBI Searches Trump’s Florida Home Mar-a-Lago in Document Investigation*, WALL ST. J. (Aug. 9, 2022).

² Statement by Donald J. Trump, 45th President of the United States, Aug. 8, 2022, available at https://saveamerica.nucleusemail.com/amplify/v/XeHZxcJVhW?hids=BP4DI1jL6k&utm_medium=email_hf&utm_source=ncl__&utm_campaign=20220808__sa&utm_content=__4736&_nlid=P3ZmaFXGvZ&_nhids=BP4DI1jL6k.

³ Jacqueline Alemany, Josh Dawsey, Tom Hamburger and Ashley Parker, *National Archives had to retrieve Trump White House records from Mar-a-Lago*, WASH. POST (Feb. 7, 2022).

Acting Archivist Wall
August 10, 2022
Page 2 of 5

in February, “[a]ll recent administrations have had some Presidential Records Act violations...[and] White House documents from multiple administrations have been retrieved by the Archives after a president has left office.”⁴ For example, Hillary and President Bill Clinton “had to return thousands of dollars worth of gifts...[and] the Clintons left the White House with \$28,000 in furnishings” from the White House.⁵

NARA’s singling out of President Trump’s handling of official records stands starkly in contrast to the way NARA has treated far clearer violations committed by politicians and officials who are not Republicans. As has been widely reported for years, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton “did not have a government email address during her four-year tenure at the State Department[,]”⁶ aides “took no actions to have her personal emails preserved...as required by the Federal Records Act[,]”⁷ and emails included classified information,⁸ but faced no repercussions—let alone an FBI raid—which demands an explanation for the disparate treatment received by President Trump, her once-rival. Since Hillary Clinton has never been President of the United States, she had a much more limited ability to declassify documents than President Trump, who was chief executive. Secretary Clinton also deleted over 31,000 emails after receiving a subpoena for them by the House Select Committee on Benghazi, which was met with the FBI’s apathy.⁹ Committee Republicans are content to leave Secretary Clinton to her retirement, yet the FBI and NARA’s behavior towards President Trump deserves an explanation as to why the latter deserved a raid by the FBI.

Committee Republicans demand answers about the FBI and NARA’s investigation of President Trump and any coordination between the two agencies. The seeming weaponization of the federal government against President Biden’s political rivals cannot go unchecked, and if NARA is working to further these efforts, it will be only the latest agency to lose its credibility in the eyes of the American people under the Biden Administration. To assist Committee Republicans in conducting oversight over NARA’s participation in this shameful episode in American history, please make arrangements to provide a Member-level briefing as soon as possible, but no later than August 17, 2022.

Additionally, please provide the following documents, covering the time period from January 20, 2021 to the present, no later than August 24, 2022:

1. All documents and communications between any employee or agent of NARA and the FBI or Department of Justice, including the Offices of the United States Attorneys, regarding former President Trump;

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Michael S. Schmidt, *Hillary Clinton Used Personal Email Account at State Dept., Possibly Breaking Rules*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 2, 2015).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *FBI recommends no charges against Hillary Clinton over emails*, BBC NEWS (Jul. 6, 2016).

⁹ *Id.*

Acting Archivist Wall

August 10, 2022

Page 3 of 5

2. All documents and communications between or among employees or agents of NARA regarding any documents in the possession of former President Trump;
3. All documents produced or contributed to by any employee or agent of NARA and submitted to a U.S. federal district court, magistrate, or judge; and
4. All documents and communications sufficient to show the process by which NARA collects documents after a presidential transition.

In addition, we request that you preserve all responsive documents, communications, and other data (“records”) that may be required for our oversight and investigative duties. Accordingly, we request that you:

1. Preserve all e-mail, electronic documents, and data (“electronic records”) **from January 20, 2021** related to former President Trump’s papers. For the purposes of this request, “preserve” means taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, or mutation of electronic records, as well as negligent or intentional handling that would make such records incomplete or inaccessible;
2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify former employees and contractors, subcontractors and consultants who may have access to such electronic records that they are to be preserved; and
3. If it is the routine practice of any agency employee or contractor to destroy or otherwise alter such electronic records, either halt such practices or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates or copies of such records, suitable for production if requested.

To schedule the briefing or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Reform has specific jurisdiction over NARA under House Rule X. Additionally, the Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations

2022-08-10 - NARA-MAI-.pdf

Acting Archivist Wall

August 10, 2022

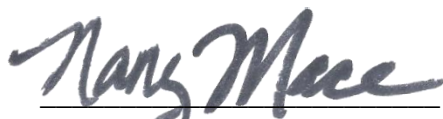
Page 4 of 5



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



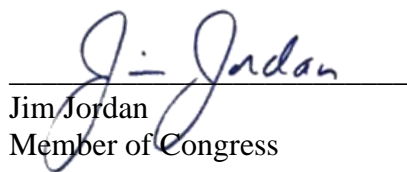
Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



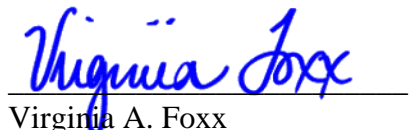
Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties



Yvette Herrell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment



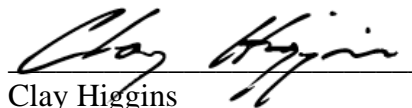
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Virginia A. Foxx
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



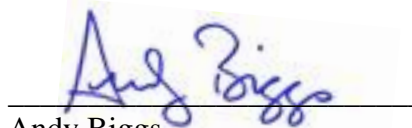
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

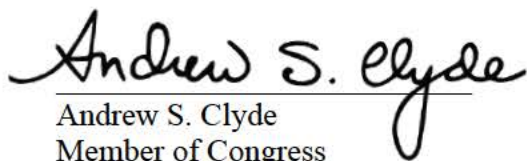


Fred Keller
Member of Congress





Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

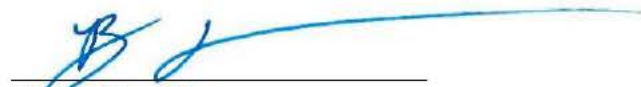
Acting Archivist Wall
August 10, 2022
Page 5 of 5


Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress


C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress


Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress


Pat Fallon
Member of Congress


Byron Donalds
Member of Congress


Mike Flood
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 02:00:00 PM
To: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Cc: ExecSec <ExecSec@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6)@nara.gov
Subject: Re: Document shared with you: "WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx"

Received in ExecSec.

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 1:57 PM John Hamilton (via Google Docs) <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

John Hamilton shared a document



John Hamilton (john.hamilton@nara.gov) has invited you to **edit** the following document:

Please review this letter to Turner. (b) (5)

[Redacted]
[Redacted] Also added Chairman Schiff as a cc.

W WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx

Open

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because john.hamilton@nara.gov shared a document with you from Google Docs.

Google Workspace

--

(b) (6)
(b) (6)

National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 116
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001

(b) (6)



From: John Hamilton (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 02:30:44 PM
To: john.valceanu@nara.gov
Subject: WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx

New activity in the following document

 WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx

 2 resolved

Suggestions



John Valceanu • 2:15 PM, Aug 16 (EDT)

Add: "(NARA)"



John Hamilton • 2:20 PM, Aug 16 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Open](#)



John Valceanu • 2:16 PM, Aug 16 (EDT)

Replace: "NARA" with "The same statement"



John Hamilton • 2:20 PM, Aug 16 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Open](#)

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because you are a participant in the updated items or subscribed to notifications on [WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx](#). [Change what Google sends you](#). You cannot reply to this email.



From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 02:42:20 PM
To: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
Attachments: image001.png

That's a pretty good response...doesn't leave any wiggle room!

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 2:40 PM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

Dear (b) (6),

Please find attached the response from Acting Archivist Debra Steidel Wall to Ranking Member Comer's letter of August 10, 2022.

Thank you,
John

On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:29 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

Ms. Wall,

Please see the attached letter from Congressman James Comer, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. This letter is also signed by Republican Members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing back from you. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) | (b) (6)

Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

--

(b) (6)
(b) (6)
National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

Office (b) (6)



From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 02:50:17 PM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Document shared with you: "WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx"

Hi Gary,

Just checking in to see if you have any input for this draft if not I can pass this along to Deb.

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 2:29 PM Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov> wrote:

Looks good to me.

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 2:18 PM John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov> wrote:

All Concerned,

Looks good. I had a couple of minor editorial suggestions.

Thanks,
Valchy

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 2:06 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

This looks good to me.

Jay

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 1:57 PM John Hamilton (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com> wrote:

John Hamilton shared a document



John Hamilton (john.hamilton@nara.gov) has invited you to edit the following document:

Please review this letter to Turner. (b) (5)
[Redacted]
[Redacted] Also added
Chairman Schiff as a cc.

W WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx

Open

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
You have received this email because john.hamilton@nara.gov shared a document with you from Google Docs.

Google Workspace

--
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 116
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001

(b) (6)



From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 02:53:40 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

We just don't have anything to add at this point. (b) (5)
Canou look at your Hill staff directory and give me the email address for the majority staff director for HPSCI?
(b) (5). Thanks!

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 2:42 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov> wrote:
That's a pretty good response...doesn't leave any wiggle room!

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 2:40 PM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

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Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

--

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Office (b) (6)

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 03:34:17 PM
To: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Document shared with you: "WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx"

Good afternoon,

I just wanted to check in if you'd like me to use this email and approve on your behalf in ETMS for this letter.

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 3:14 PM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:

To me as well. Thanks.

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 2:29 PM Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov> wrote:

Looks good to me.

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



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Valchy

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 2:06 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

This looks good to me.

Jay

John Hamilton shared a document



John Hamilton (john.hamilton@nara.gov) has invited you to **edit** the following document:

Please review this letter to Turner. (b) (5) [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] Also added
Chairman Schiff as a cc.

W WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx

Open

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--
(b) (6) [redacted]

(b) (6) [redacted]

National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 116
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001

(b) (6) [redacted]



From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 03:36:42 PM
To: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Document shared with you: "WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx"

Not a problem, thank you!

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 3:35 PM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:
That would be great, thanks!

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 3:34 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov> wrote:
Good afternoon,

I just wanted to check in if you'd like me to use this email and approve on your behalf in ETMS for this letter.

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MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



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John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



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John Hamilton shared a document



John Hamilton (john.hamilton@nara.gov) has invited you to **edit** the following document:

Please review this letter to Turner. (b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Also added

Chairman Schiff as a cc.

WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx

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--

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 116
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001

(b) (6)



--

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 116
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001

(b) (6)

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.



From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 03:39:46 PM
To: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Cc: ExecSec <ExecSec@nara.gov>
BCc: groups.archive7@nara.gov
Subject: Re: Document shared with you: "WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx"
Attachments: WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter_Signed.pdf

Hi John,

Here is the final signed document.

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 3:21 PM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:
Dear ExecSec - This letter is also ready for Deb's signature.

Thanks,
John

 [WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx](#)

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 3:14 PM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:
To me as well. Thanks.

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 2:29 PM Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov> wrote:
Looks good to me.

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



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Valchy

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



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John Hamilton shared a document



John Hamilton (john.hamilton@nara.gov) has invited you to **edit** the following document:

Please review this letter to Turner. (b) (5)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]. Also added
Chairman Schiff as a cc.

WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx

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Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
You have received this email because john.hamilton@nara.gov shared a document with you from Google Docs.

--
John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 116

Washington, D.C. 20408-0001

T: (b) (6)





Archivist of the
United States

August 16, 2022

The Honorable Michael R. Turner
Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
By Email

Dear Ranking Member Turner:

I write in response to your letter of August 9, 2022, in regard to the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation involving Presidential records recovered from former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago property in Florida.

As a general matter, the Presidential Records Act (PRA) mandates that all Presidential records must be properly preserved by each Administration so that a complete set of Presidential records is transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) at the end of the Administration. As former Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero stated in a press statement on February 7, 2022, "NARA pursues the return of records whenever we learn that records have been improperly removed or have not been appropriately transferred to official accounts." The same statement also explained that, in mid-January 2022, "NARA arranged for the transport from the Trump Mar-a-Lago property in Florida to the National Archives of 15 boxes that contained Presidential records, following discussions with President Trump's representatives in 2021."

When NARA identified items marked as classified national security information within the 15 boxes, NARA referred this issue to the DOJ. Since that time, the DOJ has been exclusively responsible for all aspects of this investigation, and NARA has not been involved in the DOJ investigation or any searches that it has conducted. Accordingly, NARA is unable to provide a briefing or any documents in response to your letter, and we refer you to the DOJ. Please note, however, that NARA is preserving all records related to this matter.

Debra Steidel Wall · T: 202.357.5900 · F: 202.357.5901 · debra.wall@nara.gov

National Archives and Records Administration · 8601 Adelphi Road · College Park, MD 20740 · www.archives.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Steidel Wall".

Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

cc: The Honorable Adam Schiff, Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

W:\11\Responuse 1008-00-30552\Internt\etter_2\igned.pdf

From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 03:46:17 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Cc: (b) (6)
BCc: debra.wall@nara.gov
Subject: Re: Letter
Attachments: WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter_Signed.pdf

(b) (6),

Please find attached a response from Acting Archivist Debra Steidel Wall to Ranking Member Turner's letter received on 8-9-22.

Thank you,
John

On Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 4:02 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

John,

Please see the attached letter.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

HPSCI

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959



Archivist of the
United States

August 16, 2022

The Honorable Michael R. Turner
Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
By Email

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Debra Steidel Wall · T: 202.357.5900 · F: 202.357.5901 · debra.wall@nara.gov

National Archives and Records Administration · 8601 Adelphi Road · College Park, MD 20740 · www.archives.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Steidel Wall".

Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

cc: The Honorable Adam Schiff, Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

W:\11\Responuse 1008-00-3055\Timmer\letter_2\signed.pdf

From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 03:49:31 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
Attachments: Wall Response to 08-10-2022 Comer Letter_Signed .pdf 2022-08-10 - NARA- MAL.pdf

FYI - Our response to the COR minority regarding current events.....

----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 2:40 PM
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Dear (b) (6),

Please find attached the response from Acting Archivist Debra Steidel Wall to Ranking Member Comer's letter of August 10, 2022.

Thank you,
John

On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:29 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

Ms. Wall,

Please see the attached letter from Congressman James Comer, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. This letter is also signed by Republican Members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing back from you. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

--
John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

PH: 202-357-6832

Cell: (b) (6)

Fax: 202-3575959

--

John O. Hamilton

Director of Congressional Affairs

National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20408-0001

PH: 202-357-6832

Cell: (b) (6)

Fax: 202-3575959



Archivist of the
United States

August 16, 2022

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6143
By Email

Dear Ranking Member Comer:

I write in response to the letter of August 10, 2022, from you and your colleagues asking about “NARA’s role, if any, in the FBI raid.”

As a general matter, the Presidential Records Act (PRA) mandates that all Presidential records must be properly preserved by each Administration so that a complete set of Presidential records is transferred to the National Archives at the end of the Administration. As former Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero stated in a press statement on February 7, 2022, “NARA pursues the return of records whenever we learn that records have been improperly removed or have not been appropriately transferred to official accounts.” NARA also explained that, in mid-January 2022, “NARA arranged for the transport from the Trump Mar-a-Lago property in Florida to the National Archives of 15 boxes that contained Presidential records, following discussions with President Trump’s representatives in 2021.”

When NARA identified items marked as classified national security information within the 15 boxes, NARA referred this issue to the Department of Justice (DOJ). Since that time, DOJ has been exclusively responsible for all aspects of this investigation, and NARA has not been involved in the DOJ investigation or any searches that it has conducted. Accordingly, NARA is unable to provide a briefing or any documents in response to your letter, and we refer you to the DOJ. Please note, however, that NARA is preserving all records related to this matter.

Sincerely,

Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

Debra Steidel Wall · T: 202.357.5900 · F: 202.357.5901 · debra.wall@nara.gov

National Archives and Records Administration · 8601 Adelphi Road · College Park, MD 20740 · www.archives.gov

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
 MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 10, 2022

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
 Acting Archivist of the United States
 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
 Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Ms. Wall:

On August 8, 2022, several dozen Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents descended upon Mar-a-Lago—the private residence of former President Donald J. Trump. According to media reports, the FBI executed a search warrant to retrieve “documents sought by the National Archives [and Records Administration]” (NARA).¹ Law enforcement raiding a former president’s residence is unprecedented. Committee Republicans are concerned that NARA would utilize the FBI to gather documents that the president, by the very nature of his constitutional role, could declassify himself, if this was indeed the case as media has reported. The Biden Administration is continuing to weaponize the FBI against political rivals. To better understand the circumstances and NARA’s role, if any, in the FBI raid, Oversight Republicans request an immediate briefing on this matter. Additionally, we request that you ensure preservation of all documents and communications referring or relating to the warrant executed by the FBI on August 8, 2022 at Mar-a-Lago.

The FBI and NARA’s actions—apparently to enforce the Presidential Records Act (PRA)—are so contrary to the customary treatment of former administrations that it begs scrutiny into whether a political motivation underlay the raid. According to President Trump, the unannounced raid on his home occurred the morning of August 8, when President Trump was not home, and included breaking into his safe.² Additionally, President Trump stated he has been “working and cooperating” with the relevant agencies, which is corroborated by previous reporting of NARA’s January 2022 retrieval of 15 boxes of documents from Mar-a-Lago, which were mostly “mementos, gifts, letters from world leaders and other correspondence.”³ As noted

¹ Eric Beech, *Eric Trump: FBI raid conducted over documents sought by National Archives*, REUTERS (Aug. 8, 2022); see also Alex Leary, Sadie Gurman and Aruna Viswanatha, *FBI Searches Trump’s Florida Home Mar-a-Lago in Document Investigation*, WALL ST. J. (Aug. 9, 2022).

² Statement by Donald J. Trump, 45th President of the United States, Aug. 8, 2022, available at https://saveamerica.nucleusemail.com/amplify/v/XeHZxcJVhW?hids=BP4DIIjL6k&utm_medium=email_hf&utm_source=ncl__&utm_campaign=20220808__sa&utm_content=__4736&_nlid=P3ZmaFXGvZ&_nhids=BP4DIIjL6k.

³ Jacqueline Alemany, Josh Dawsey, Tom Hamburger and Ashley Parker, *National Archives had to retrieve Trump White House records from Mar-a-Lago*, WASH. POST (Feb. 7, 2022).

Acting Archivist Wall
 August 10, 2022
 Page 2 of 5

in February, “[a]ll recent administrations have had some Presidential Records Act violations...[and] White House documents from multiple administrations have been retrieved by the Archives after a president has left office.”⁴ For example, Hillary and President Bill Clinton “had to return thousands of dollars worth of gifts...[and] the Clintons left the White House with \$28,000 in furnishings” from the White House.⁵

NARA’s singling out of President Trump’s handling of official records stands starkly in contrast to the way NARA has treated far clearer violations committed by politicians and officials who are not Republicans. As has been widely reported for years, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton “did not have a government email address during her four-year tenure at the State Department[,]”⁶ aides “took no actions to have her personal emails preserved...as required by the Federal Records Act[,]”⁷ and emails included classified information,⁸ but faced no repercussions—let alone an FBI raid—which demands an explanation for the disparate treatment received by President Trump, her once-rival. Since Hillary Clinton has never been President of the United States, she had a much more limited ability to declassify documents than President Trump, who was chief executive. Secretary Clinton also deleted over 31,000 emails after receiving a subpoena for them by the House Select Committee on Benghazi, which was met with the FBI’s apathy.⁹ Committee Republicans are content to leave Secretary Clinton to her retirement, yet the FBI and NARA’s behavior towards President Trump deserves an explanation as to why the latter deserved a raid by the FBI.

Committee Republicans demand answers about the FBI and NARA’s investigation of President Trump and any coordination between the two agencies. The seeming weaponization of the federal government against President Biden’s political rivals cannot go unchecked, and if NARA is working to further these efforts, it will be only the latest agency to lose its credibility in the eyes of the American people under the Biden Administration. To assist Committee Republicans in conducting oversight over NARA’s participation in this shameful episode in American history, please make arrangements to provide a Member-level briefing as soon as possible, but no later than August 17, 2022.

Additionally, please provide the following documents, covering the time period from January 20, 2021 to the present, no later than August 24, 2022:

1. All documents and communications between any employee or agent of NARA and the FBI or Department of Justice, including the Offices of the United States Attorneys, regarding former President Trump;

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Michael S. Schmidt, *Hillary Clinton Used Personal Email Account at State Dept., Possibly Breaking Rules*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 2, 2015).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *FBI recommends no charges against Hillary Clinton over emails*, BBC NEWS (Jul. 6, 2016).

⁹ *Id.*

Acting Archivist Wall

August 10, 2022

Page 3 of 5

2. All documents and communications between or among employees or agents of NARA regarding any documents in the possession of former President Trump;
3. All documents produced or contributed to by any employee or agent of NARA and submitted to a U.S. federal district court, magistrate, or judge; and
4. All documents and communications sufficient to show the process by which NARA collects documents after a presidential transition.

In addition, we request that you preserve all responsive documents, communications, and other data (“records”) that may be required for our oversight and investigative duties. Accordingly, we request that you:

1. Preserve all e-mail, electronic documents, and data (“electronic records”) **from January 20, 2021** related to former President Trump’s papers. For the purposes of this request, “preserve” means taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, or mutation of electronic records, as well as negligent or intentional handling that would make such records incomplete or inaccessible;
2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify former employees and contractors, subcontractors and consultants who may have access to such electronic records that they are to be preserved; and
3. If it is the routine practice of any agency employee or contractor to destroy or otherwise alter such electronic records, either halt such practices or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates or copies of such records, suitable for production if requested.

To schedule the briefing or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Reform has specific jurisdiction over NARA under House Rule X. Additionally, the Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations

2022-08-10 - NARA-MAI-.pdf

Acting Archivist Wall

August 10, 2022

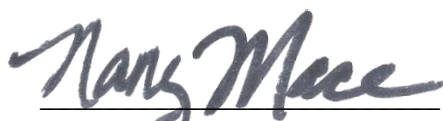
Page 4 of 5



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



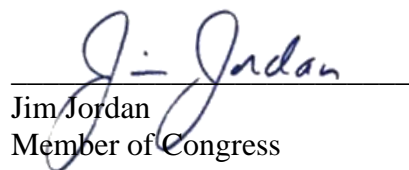
Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties



Yvette Herrell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment



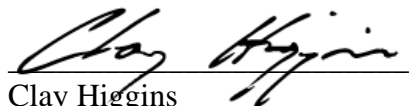
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Virginia A. Foxx
Member of Congress



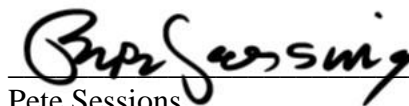
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



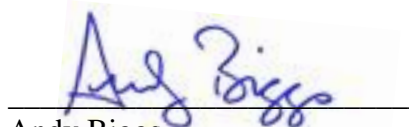
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

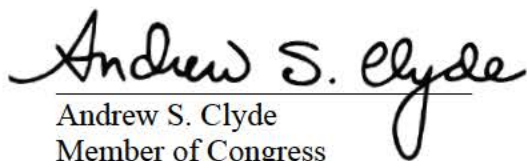


Fred Keller
Member of Congress





Andy Biggs
Member of Congress


Acting Archivist Wall
August 10, 2022
Page 5 of 5


Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress


C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress


Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress


Pat Fallon
Member of Congress


Byron Donalds
Member of Congress


Mike Flood
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

2022-08-10 - NARA - MAI - pdf

From: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 03:54:16 PM
To: ExecSec <ExecSec@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
Attachments: Wall Response to 08-10-2022 Comer Letter_Signed .pdf

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 2:40 PM
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Dear (b) (6),

Please find attached the response from Acting Archivist Debra Steidel Wall to Ranking Member Comer's letter of August 10, 2022.

Thank you,
John

On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 2:29 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

Ms. Wall,

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Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

Committee on Oversight and Reform | Ranking Member James Comer

2105 Rayburn | Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 225-5074

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959



Archivist of the
United States

August 16, 2022

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6143
By Email

Dear Ranking Member Comer:

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As a general matter, the Presidential Records Act (PRA) mandates that all Presidential records must be properly preserved by each Administration so that a complete set of Presidential records is transferred to the National Archives at the end of the Administration. As former Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero stated in a press statement on February 7, 2022, “NARA pursues the return of records whenever we learn that records have been improperly removed or have not been appropriately transferred to official accounts.” NARA also explained that, in mid-January 2022, “NARA arranged for the transport from the Trump Mar-a-Lago property in Florida to the National Archives of 15 boxes that contained Presidential records, following discussions with President Trump’s representatives in 2021.”

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Sincerely,

Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

Debra Steidel Wall · T: 202.357.5900 · F: 202.357.5901 · debra.wall@nara.gov

National Archives and Records Administration · 8601 Adelphi Road · College Park, MD 20740 · www.archives.gov

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

From: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 03:58:38 PM
To: ExecSec <ExecSec@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: Fwd: Letter
Attachments: WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter_Signed.pdf

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 3:46 PM
Subject: Re: Letter
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Cc: <(b) (6)>

(b) (6),

Please find attached a response from Acting Archivist Debra Steidel Wall to Ranking Member Turner's letter received on 8-9-22.

Thank you,
John

On Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 4:02 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

John,

Please see the attached letter.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

HPSCI

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20408-0001

PH: 202-357-6832

Cell: (b) (6)

Fax: 202-3575959



Archivist of the
United States

August 16, 2022

The Honorable Michael R. Turner
Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
By Email

Dear Ranking Member Turner:

I write in response to your letter of August 9, 2022, in regard to the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation involving Presidential records recovered from former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago property in Florida.

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Debra Steidel Wall · T: 202.357.5900 · F: 202.357.5901 · debra.wall@nara.gov

National Archives and Records Administration · 8601 Adelphi Road · College Park, MD 20740 · www.archives.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Steidel Wall".

Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

cc: The Honorable Adam Schiff, Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

From: Merrily Harris <merrily.harris@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 07:37:40 PM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) @nara.gov; Oriabure, Stephannie <stephannie.oriabure@nara.gov>; Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: COMPLETED: NARASE-2022-1303: Response to: House Intel Committee on the FBI Actions was finalized by the Executive Secretariat
Attachments: National Archives & Records Administration Mail - Document shared with you _ WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx _pdf Email Response Sent.pdf WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter_Signed.pdf

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6) @nara.gov>
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022
Subject: Fwd: COMPLETED: NARASE-2022-1303: Response to: House Intel Committee on the FBI Actions was finalized by the Executive Secretariat
To: "Donius, Susan" <susan.donius@nara.gov>, Merrily Harris <merrily.harris@nara.gov>

This is now marked as completed in the system. Attached are the documents uploaded into execsec. They include the final signed letter, the email transmitting the response to (b) (6), and Deb's email approval of the draft letter.

This letter is almost identical to the other.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: No-reply-ETMS <etms.notifications@nara.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 3:39 PM
Subject: COMPLETED: NARASE-2022-1303: Response to: House Intel Committee on the FBI Actions was finalized by the Executive Secretariat
To: (b) (6) @nara.gov <(b) (6) @nara.gov>



Hello Legislative Archives, Presidential Libraries, and Museum Services,

The Executive Secretariat has the document(s) for NARASE-2022-1303:
Response to: House Intel Committee on the FBI Actions.

Please [click here](#) to access the links to the final version of the document(s).

--

(b) (6)

Legislative Archives, Presidential Libraries, and Museum Services (L)

[8601 Adelphi Road](#)

[College Park, MD 20740](#)

(b) (6)



(b) (6) <(b) (6)>@nara.gov>

Document shared with you: "WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter.docx"

Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 3:13 PM
To: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Cc: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>, William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, NARA Executive Secretariat <execsec@nara.gov>, "Stern, GaryM" <garym.stern@nara.gov>

To me as well. Thanks.

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 2:29 PM Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]



(b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>

Re: FW: Letter

Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
To: ExecSec <ExecSec@nara.gov>

Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 3:58 PM

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH
Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T 202 357 5420
F: 202-357-5901



Forwarded me age

From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 3:46 PM
Subject: Re: Letter
To: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: <(b) (6)>

(b) (6)

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Thank you,
John

On Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 4 02 PM (b) (6) (b) (6) wrote

John,

Please see the attached letter

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

HPSCI

--
John O Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs

8/16/22, 3:59 PM

Obtained via FOIA by Records Administration Mail - Re: FW: Letter

National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20408 0001

PH: 202-357-6832

Cell: (b) (6)

Fax: 202-3575959



WallResponse to08-09-2022TurnerLetter_Signed.pdf

134K



Archivist of the
United States

August 16, 2022

The Honorable Michael R. Turner
Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
By Email

Dear Ranking Member Turner:

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Debra Steidel Wall · T: 202.357.5900 · F: 202.357.5901 · debra.wall@nara.gov

National Archives and Records Administration · 8601 Adelphi Road · College Park, MD 20740 · www.archives.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Steidel Wall".

Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

cc: The Honorable Adam Schiff, Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

W:\11\Responuse 1008-00-3055\Timmer\etter_2\igned.pdf

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>

Sent time: 08/22/2022 09:00:23 PM

To: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>; Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>

Subject: Urgent - Articles

(1) CNN is reporting on the 2nd subpoena. [Exclusive: Justice Department issues new subpoena to National Archives for more January 6 documents - CNNPolitics](#)

(2) NYT is reporting on the inventory of our 15 and what DOJ has since recovered.

[Trump Had More Than 300 Classified Documents at Mar-a-Lago - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/23/2022 09:08:29 AM
 Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Maria Stanwich
To: <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; Donius, Susan <susan.donius@nara.gov>; Laster, John
 <john.laster@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: May 10 letter from Debra Wall to Evan Corcoran

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(b) (5)

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
 General Counsel
 National Archives and Records Administration
 8601 Adelphi Road
 College Park, MD 20740
 (b) (6) (cell)
 301-837-3026 (office)
 301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kyle Cheney <kcheney@politico.com>
Date: Tue, Aug 23, 2022 at 1:22 AM
Subject: May 10 letter from Debra Wall to Evan Corcoran
To: garym.stern@nara.gov <garym.stern@nara.gov>

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Thanks,

Kyle Cheney
 POLITICO
 (C) 617-519-6526
 (O) 202-225-2941

kcheney@politico.com
@kyledcheney

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/23/2022 09:14:52 AM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: May 10 letter from Debra Wall to Evan Corcoran

See below, etc. Solomon is one of the Reps., but is also a journalist.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 23, 2022 at 9:09 AM
Subject: Fwd: May 10 letter from Debra Wall to Evan Corcoran
To: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>, William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>, John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>, Donius, Susan <susan.donius@nara.gov>, Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>

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(O) 202-225-2941
kcheney@politico.com
@kyledcheney

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/23/2022 09:53:08 PM
Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Maria Stanwich
To: <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; Donius, Susan <susan.donius@nara.gov>; Laster, John
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Subject: Re: May 10 letter from Debra Wall to Evan Corcoran

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College Park, MD 20740

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Thanks,

Kyle Cheney
POLITICO
(C) 617-519-6526
(O) 202-225-2941
kcheney@politico.com
@kyledcheney

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/23/2022 10:00:01 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: May 10 letter from Debra Wall to Evan Corcoran

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From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 23, 2022 at 9:53 PM
Subject: Re: May 10 letter from Debra Wall to Evan Corcoran
To: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>, William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>, John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>, Donius, Susan <susan.donius@nara.gov>, Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>

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Kyle Cheney
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(O) 202-225-2941
kcheney@politico.com
@kyledcheney

From: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/24/2022 09:31:37 AM
To: Robin Waldman <robin.waldman@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: May 10 letter from Debra Wall to Evan Corcoran

FYI & FYSA. Please keep close hold.

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



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Subject: Re: May 10 letter from Debra Wall to Evan Corcoran
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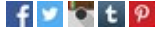
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POLITICO
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kcheney@politico.com
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From: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/24/2022 09:31:14 AM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; Donius, Susan <susan.donius@nara.gov>; Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: May 10 letter from Debra Wall to Evan Corcoran

Thanks, Gary.

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



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Kyle Cheney
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(C) 617-519-6526
(O) 202-225-2941
kcheney@politico.com
@kyledcheney

From: Robin Waldman <robin.waldman@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/24/2022 09:33:00 AM
To: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: May 10 letter from Debra Wall to Evan Corcoran

Received. Thanks.

Robin Z. Waldman

(pronouns: she/her/hers)
Director, Public and Media Communications
301.837.0605 (office)
(b) (6) (mobile)



On Wed, Aug 24, 2022 at 9:32 AM John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov> wrote:

FYI & FYSA. Please keep close hold.

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



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Subject: Re: May 10 letter from Debra Wall to Evan Corcoran
To: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>, William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>, John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>, Donius, Susan <susan.donius@nara.gov>, Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>

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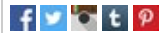
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----- Forwarded message -----[Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.](#)

From: **Kyle Cheney** <kcheney@politico.com>

Date: Tue, Aug 23, 2022 at 1:22 AM

Subject: May 10 letter from Debra Wall to Evan Corcoran

To: garym.stern@nara.gov <garym.stern@nara.gov>

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Thanks,

Kyle Cheney
POLITICO
(C) 617-519-6526
(O) 202-225-2941
kcheney@politico.com
@kyledcheney

From: Gary Stern (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 08/24/2022 11:05:14 AM
To: debra.wall@nara.gov
Subject: Update on Trump Administration Presidential Records

New activity in the following document

 Update on Trump Administration Presidential Records

 8 suggestions

 Gary Stern • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Replace: (b) (5) with (b) (5)
[Redacted]

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

 Gary Stern • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Add: "PRA"

[Reply](#)


[Open](#)

 Gary Stern • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Replace: (b) (5)
[Redacted] ..."

[Reply](#)


[Open](#)

 Gary Stern • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Delete: "s"

[Reply](#)


[Open](#)

 Gary Stern • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Add: "(b) (5)"
[Redacted] ..."

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

 Gary Stern • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Delete: (b) (5)
[Redacted]

(b) (5) ...” Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

Reply

Open

G Gary Stern • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Delete paragraph (2 times)

Delete space

Reply

Open

G Gary Stern • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Add: "W"

Reply

Open

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because you are a participant in the updated items or subscribed to notifications on [Update on Trump Administration Presidential Records](#). [Change what Google sends you](#). You cannot reply to this email.



From: Debra Wall (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 08/24/2022 11:26:50 AM
To: garym.stern@nara.gov
Subject: Update on Trump Administration Presidential Records

New activity in the following document


 Update on Trump Administration Presidential Records


 18 resolved

Comments

committee

 Debra Wall • 11:12 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)
(b) (5)

 Gary Stern • 11:14 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)
(b) (5)


 Debra Wall • 11:16 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**
Marked as resolved

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

Suggestions

 Gary Stern • 10:50 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)
Replace: **(b) (5)**

 Debra Wall • 11:07 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**
Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

 Gary Stern • 10:50 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)
Add: "PRA"

 Debra Wall • 11:08 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**
Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 10:51 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)

Replace: (b) (5) [Redacted]
[Redacted] ..."



Debra Wall • 11:08 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 10:51 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)

Delete: "s"



Debra Wall • 11:07 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 11:01 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)

Add: "(b) (5) [Redacted]
[Redacted] ..."



Debra Wall • 11:07 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 11:04 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)

Delete: (b) (5) [Redacted]
[Redacted] ..."



Debra Wall • 11:08 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 11:04 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)

Delete paragraph (2 times)

Delete space




Debra Wall • 11:08 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**


Accepted suggestion


[Reply](#)

[Open](#)


 Gary Stern • 11:05 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)
Add: (b) (5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ...

 Debra Wall • 11:07 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**
Accepted suggestion
[Reply](#) [Open](#)


 Gary Stern • 11:07 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)
Delete space


 Debra Wall • 11:08 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**
Accepted suggestion
[Reply](#) [Open](#)


 Gary Stern • 11:11 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)
Add: “”

 Debra Wall • 11:16 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**
Rejected suggestion
[Reply](#) [Open](#)

 Gary Stern • 11:11 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)
Add: “”

 Debra Wall • 11:16 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**
Rejected suggestion
[Reply](#) [Open](#)

 Gary Stern • 11:08 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)
Delete paragraph
Add space

 Debra Wall • 11:08 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**
Accepted suggestion
[Reply](#) [Open](#)



Gary Stern • 11:08 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)

Delete paragraph



Debra Wall • 11:11 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 11:09 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)

Replace: (b) (5) ”



Debra Wall • 11:11 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 11:09 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)

Add: (b) (5) ”



Debra Wall • 11:11 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 11:10 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)

Delete space



Debra Wall • 11:11 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 11:12 AM, Aug 24 (EDT)

Add: (b) (5) ”



Debra Wall • 11:16 AM, Aug 24 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

You have received this email because you are a participant in the updated items or subscribed to notifications on [Update on Trump Administration Presidential Records](#). [Change what Google sends you](#). You cannot reply to this email.



From: Ben Jordi <ben.jordi@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/24/2022 03:25:22 PM
To: Communications <communications@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: PLEASE REVIEW: NARA Notice 2022-192: Update on Trump Administration Presidential Records

Team,
Please review for immediate publication.
Thank you,

Ben



To: All Employees

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In that letter, I addressed issues raised by Mr. Corcoran in his role as a Presidential Records Act (PRA) representative of President Trump. At issue was the request of the White House, on behalf of the Department of Justice (DOJ), that NARA provide the FBI with access to the 15 boxes, so that the FBI and others in the Intelligence Community could examine them. When NARA receives such requests, we follow the formal process established by the PRA, our regulations at [36 C.F.R. Part 1270](#), and [Executive Order 13489](#), to provide the former President an opportunity to review the responsive records for constitutionally based privileges.

In this case, White House Counsel informed me that, in light of the particular circumstances, President Biden deferred to my determination, in consultation with the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel, regarding whether or not I should uphold the former President's purported "protective assertion of executive privilege." Accordingly, I informed Mr. Corcoran that the time period for review had expired and that "an assertion of executive privilege against the incumbent President under these circumstances would not be viable," because "there is no precedent for an assertion of executive privilege by a former President against an incumbent President to prevent the latter from obtaining from NARA Presidential records belonging to the Federal Government." My letter also indicated that NARA had identified more than 700 pages of records marked as classified national security information, up to the level of Top Secret and including Sensitive Compartmented Information and Special Access Program materials – information that we had not previously publicly disclosed.

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DEBRA STEIDEL WALL
Acting Archivist of the United States

If you have questions about this notice, contact:

William Bosanko, Chief Operating Officer
william.bosanko@nara.gov
Room 4200
National Archives at College Park
Phone: 301-837-3604

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/24/2022 03:40:00 PM
To: Ben Jordi <ben.jordi@nara.gov>
Cc: Communications <communications@nara.gov>
BCc: groups.archive7@nara.gov
Subject: Re: PLEASE REVIEW: NARA Notice 2022-192: Update on Trump Administration Presidential Records

P5, there's an em dash in the last sentence that needs the spaces around it closed

no other edits

On Wed, Aug 24, 2022 at 2:26 PM Ben Jordi <ben.jordi@nara.gov> wrote:

Team,
 Please review for immediate publication.
 Thank you,

Ben



Notice

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DEBRA STEIDEL WALL
Acting Archivist of the United States

If you have questions about this notice, contact:

William Bosanko, Chief Operating Officer
william.bosanko@nara.gov
Room 4200
National Archives at College Park
Phone: 301-837-3604

--

Best,

Cara Moore Lebonick (she/her)
Writer/Editor
Office of the Chief of Staff, St. Louis, MO

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/24/2022 03:40:20 PM
To: Ben Jordi <ben.jordi@nara.gov>
Cc: Communications <communications@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6)@nara.gov
Subject: Re: PLEASE REVIEW: NARA Notice 2022-192: Update on Trump Administration Presidential Records

Reviewed. No edits.

(b) (6)

Public Affairs Specialist
Detailed to Employee Communications

(b) (6)
(b) (6)@nara.gov

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Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

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william.bosanko@nara.gov
Room 4200
National Archives at College Park
Phone: 301-837-3604

From: Ben Jordi <icn-reply@nara.gov> [Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.](#)
Sent time: 08/24/2022 03:43:39 PM
To: David Mengel <david.mengel@nara.gov>
Subject: [We, the People] - NARA Notice 2022-192: Update on Trump Administration Presidential Records

Internal Collaboration Network

NARA Notice 2022-192: Update on Trump Administration Presidential Records

created by [Ben Jordi](#) in *We, the People* - [View the full document](#)

(b) (7)(E)

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Comment by [going to Internal Collaboration Network](#)
Create a new document in We, the People at [Internal Collaboration Network](#)
Following [We, the People](#) in these streams: Following
Following [Ben Jordi](#) in these streams: Following

From: Notice <notice@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/24/2022 03:43:03 PM
To: Notice <notice@nara.gov>
BCc: Staff_NARA@nara.gov; (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: NARA Notice 2022-192: Update on Trump Administration Presidential Records



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--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "\$Staff NARA" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to Staff_NARA+unsubscribe@nara.gov.
To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/a/nara.gov/d/msgid/Staff_NARA/CAMkMx06mF-kqpWJawHYj%3D8i_7sWaDfUpCzjPt%3DLqy7XwOz%3DvgQ%40mail.gmail.com.

From: No-reply-ETMS <etms.notifications@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/24/2022 03:56:05 PM
To: debra.wall@nara.gov
Subject: Archivist review needed for Controlled Action NARASE-2022-1329: NARA Notice 2022-192: Update on Trump Administration Presidential Records



Hello Archivist,

The Executive Secretariat is providing **Controlled Action** NARASE-2022-1329: NARA Notice 2022-192: Update on Trump Administration Presidential Records for your Signature.

This Controlled Action was received on 8/24/2022 12:00 PM and has a final deadline of 8/24/2022.

Please [click here](#) to review the Controlled Action.

From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/30/2022 11:22:39 AM
To: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>; Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Cc: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
Attachments: 2022-08-30 Follow-up letter to NARA re FBI search.pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Ms. Wall,

Please see the attached follow-up letter from Ranking Member James Comer. This letter is also signed by Republican Members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing from you. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

--
John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
 MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 30, 2022

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
 Acting Archivist of the United States
 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Ms. Wall:

This is in response to your letter dated August 16, 2022, and to inquire as to whether you would like to amend the representations made in that letter regarding the events leading up to, and the National Archives' (NARA) involvement in, the FBI search of Mar-a-Lago. Specifically, in that letter you stated:

Since that time, [the point at which NARA referred the matter of classified documents to the Department of Justice] DOJ has been exclusively responsible for all aspects of this investigation, and NARA has not been involved in the DOJ investigation or any searches that it has conducted. **Accordingly, NARA is unable to provide a briefing or any documents in response to your letter,** and we refer you to the DOJ.¹

The accuracy of this statement has been called into question in recent days.

On August 22, 2022, *Just the News* published a letter demonstrating robust negotiations between NARA and former President Trump's attorney, Evan Corcoran.² Also on August 22, 2022, the *New York Times* reported: "...the material in the boxes prompted archives officials to refer the matter to the Justice Department, which within months had convened a grand jury investigation."³ The article explains that NARA "spent much of 2021 trying to get back material from Mr. Trump," as well as noting NARA's role in preserving presidential records.⁴

¹ Letter from Ms. Debra Steidel Wall, Acting Archivist of the U.S. to Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (Aug. 16, 2022) (emphasis added).

² Ben Whedon, *Full Text of National Archives Letter to Trump on Classified Documents*, JUST THE NEWS (Aug. 22, 2022). Also now available at: <https://www.archives.gov/files/foia/wall-letter-to-evan-corcoran-re-trump-boxes-05.10.2022.pdf>.

³ Maggie Haberman, Jodi Kantor, Adam Goldman, & Ben Protess, *Trump Had More Than 300 Classified Documents at Mar-a-Lago*, N.Y. TIMES (Aug. 22, 2022).

⁴ *Id.*

Acting Archivist Wall
 August 30, 2022
 Page 2 of 5

While your letter acknowledges the referral to the DOJ, it ignores the first two requests made in the August 10, 2022, letter to you.⁵ Specifically, that letter requested:

1. All documents and communications between any employee or agent of NARA and the FBI or Department of Justice, including the Offices of the United States Attorneys, regarding former President Trump;
2. All documents and communications between or among employees or agents of NARA regarding any documents in the possession of former President Trump.⁶

The time period covered by this request—as stated in the letter—is January 20, 2021, to the present.⁷ The letter to Mr. Corcoran, along with any other documents demonstrating negotiations with former President Trump’s team as reported on by the *New York Times*, would certainly be covered by the above requests. Moreover, the letter to Mr. Corcoran specifically mentions communications between NARA and the DOJ (e.g., “NARA informed the Department of Justice...”; “The Assistant Attorney General has advised me...”; “...which the Assistant Attorney General informs me...”). It is puzzling that you and your staff would blatantly deny the existence of such responsive documents or communications to Congress. It is implausible that there would be no internal communications by NARA employees regarding the subject matter of the letter to Mr. Corcoran, as your letter to us would indicate.

Transparency is particularly important in the post-pandemic era when Americans are lacking trust in our nation’s institutions. Congress, and particularly the Oversight Committee, has a duty to provide transparency and accountability for the American people. We request that you revisit your prior communications to Oversight Republicans and amend your prior statements as necessary. Likewise, we expect your office to provide a briefing and documents responsive to the August 10, 2022, letter signed by 20 Republican Members of the Oversight Committee.

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⁶ *Id.*

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Acting Archivist Wall
August 30, 2022
Page 3 of 5

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To make arrangements to schedule the briefing or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican Staff at (202) 225-5074. Documents may be provided electronically by the same means you have been producing to Committee Democrats over the course of this Congress. The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



Michael Clouse
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy

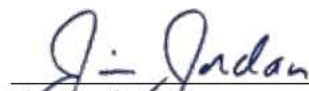


Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties



Yvette Herrell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment

Acting Archivist Wall
August 30, 2022
Page 4 of 5



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



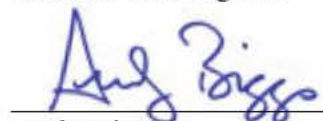
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



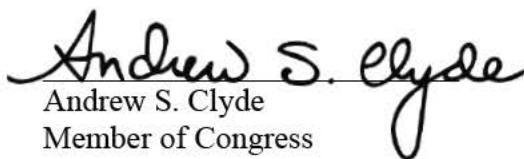
Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Fred Keller
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress




Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress



Pat Fallon
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



Mike Flood
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

2022-08-30 Follow-up letter to NARA re FBI search.pdf

Acting Archivist Wall

August 30, 2022

Page 5 of 5

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
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The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

From: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/30/2022 11:38:10 AM
To: Robin Waldman <robin.waldman@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
Attachments: 2022-08-30 Follow-up letter to NARA re FBI search.pdf

FYI & FYSA. Please keep close hold for now.

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:22 AM
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>, Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>, John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Cc: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>

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From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

--

John O. Hamilton

Director of Congressional Affairs

National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20408-0001

PH: 202-357-6832

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House of Representatives

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Acting Archivist Wall
 August 30, 2022
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Acting Archivist Wall
August 30, 2022
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Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



Michael Clouse
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties

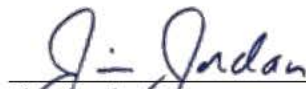


Yvette Herrell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment

Acting Archivist Wall


August 30, 2022

Page 4 of 5


Jim Jordan
Member of Congress


Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress

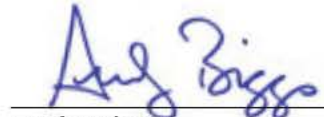

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

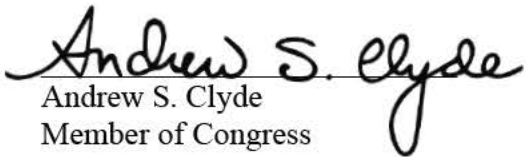

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress


Ralph Norman
Member of Congress


Pete Sessions
Member of Congress


Fred Keller
Member of Congress


Andy Biggs
Member of Congress


Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress


C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress


Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress


Pat Fallon
Member of Congress


Byron Donalds
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Mike Flood
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

2022-08-30 Follow-up letter to NARA re FBI search.pdf

Acting Archivist Wall

August 30, 2022

Page 5 of 5

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

From: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/30/2022 11:45:33 AM
To: Robin Waldman <robin.waldman@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

Not at NARA!

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



On Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:50 AM Robin Waldman <robin.waldman@nara.gov> wrote:
Never a dull moment.

Robin Z. Waldman
(pronouns: she/her/hers)
Director, Public and Media Communications
301.837.0605 (office)
(b) (6) (mobile)



On Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:44 AM John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov> wrote:
FYI & FYSA. Please keep close hold for now.

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Hamilton** <john.hamilton@nara.gov> Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:22 AM

Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>, Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>, John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>

Cc: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM

Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6)

(b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6)

<(b) (6)>

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Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

--

John O. Hamilton

Director of Congressional Affairs

National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20408-0001

PH: 202-357-6832

Cell: (b) (6)

Fax: 202-3575959

From: Robin Waldman <robin.waldman@nara.gov>
Sent time: 08/30/2022 11:49:53 AM
To: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

Never a dull moment.

Robin Z. Waldman

(pronouns: she/her/hers)
Director, Public and Media Communications
301.837.0605 (office)
(b) (6) (mobile)



On Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:44 AM John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov> wrote:

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John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



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Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>, Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>, John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Cc: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>

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From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
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Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

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Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

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John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/07/2022 01:06:38 PM
To: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Cc: Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
Attachments: 2022-09-1-NARA-OIG-Mar-a-Lago-Raid.from HCOR Ranking Member Comer.pdf

FYI, in a meeting I had today with Brett Baker, he informed me that he had received the attached letter from Ranking Member Comer. (b) (5)

I am still working on how best to respond to Comer's follow up letter to Deb.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:22 AM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

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From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM
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Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

September 1, 2022

Dr. Brett M. Baker
Inspector General
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road, Room 1300
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Dear Dr. Baker:

On August 8, 2022, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) raided the home of former President Donald J. Trump.¹ This raid was unprecedented. Unfortunately, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has refused to be transparent with the American people about the details of this unprecedented action. The raid was apparently necessary to collect certain documents sought by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) allegedly in former President Trump's possession. According to the recently released affidavit predicated the issuance of a search warrant, NARA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) referred the matter to DOJ.² Republicans on the Committee on Oversight and Reform request information and documents regarding this referral, including the OIG's role in reviewing this matter.

On August 10, 2022, Committee Republicans requested documents and information from Acting Archivist Debra Steidel Wall about NARA's role in the Mar-a-Lago raid.³ However, in response to our request, NARA denied possessing any responsive documents despite publicly available information indicating otherwise.⁴ We requested NARA amend what appears to be an incomplete response to our first request for information.⁵

While Committee Republicans pursue answers from NARA, the affidavit filed by the FBI before the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida described the need for a search

¹ Eric Beech, *Eric Trump: FBI raid conducted over documents sought by National Archives*, REUTERS (Aug. 8, 2022); see also Alex Leary, Sadie Gurman and Aruna Viswanatha, *FBI Searches Trump's Florida Home Mar-a-Lago in Document Investigation*, WALL ST. J. (Aug. 9, 2022).

² Affidavit in support of an application under Rule 41 for a warrant to search and seize, *In the Matter of the Search of: Locations Within the Premises to be Searched in Attachment A*, p. 7-8 (S.D. Fla.) (unsealed Aug. 26, 2022).

³ Letter from Hon. James Comer & nineteen other Republican Members of the H. Oversight & Reform Comm. to Ms. Debra Steidel Wall, Acting Archivist of the U.S., (Aug. 10, 2022) available at <https://republicans-oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-08-10-NARA-MAL567537660.pdf>.

⁴ Letter from Ms. Debra Steidel Wall, Acting Archivist of the U.S. to Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (Aug. 16, 2022).

⁵ Letter from Hon. James Comer & nineteen other Republican Members of the H. Oversight & Reform Comm. to Ms. Debra Steidel Wall, Acting Archivist of the U.S., (Aug. 30, 2022) available at <https://republicans-oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-08-29-Follow-up-letter-to-NARA-re-FBI-search.pdf>.

Inspector General Baker
September 1, 2022
Page 2 of 2

warrant for the Mar-a-Lago raid when unsealed in a heavily redacted form and revealed the OIG's participation in referring this matter to DOJ. According to the affidavit, on February 9, 2022, "the Special Agent in Charge of NARA's Office of the Inspector General sent the NARA Referral via email to DOJ."⁶ Transparency is particularly important in the post-pandemic era when Americans are lacking trust in our nation's institutions. Congress, and particularly the Oversight Committee, has a duty to provide transparency and accountability for the American people.

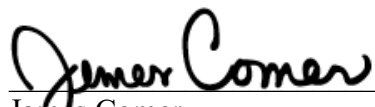
Please provide the following documents, covering the time period from January 20, 2021, to present, no later than September 15, 2022:

1. All documents and communications between any employee or agent of the NARA OIG and NARA regarding documents in the possession of President Trump;
2. All documents and communications between any employee or agent of the NARA OIG and the FBI or Department of Justice, including the Offices of the United States Attorneys, regarding documents in the possession of President Trump; and
3. All documents and communications between or among employees or agents of the NARA OIG regarding any documents in the possession of former President Trump.

To ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican Staff at (202) 225-5074.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform has specific jurisdiction over NARA under House Rule X. Additionally, the Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight & Reform

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight & Reform

⁶ *Supra*, n. 2.

From: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/13/2022 10:41:40 AM
To: Robin Waldman <robin.waldman@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Seeking any NARA response to Maloney letter

For what it's worth, this woman appears to be Romanian, based on her name. ;)

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



----- Forwarded message -----

From: 'Chiacu, Doina (Reuters)' via Public and Media Communications <public.affairs@nara.gov>
Date: Tue, Sep 13, 2022 at 9:47 AM
Subject: Seeking any NARA response to Maloney letter
To: National Archives <public.affairs@nara.gov>
Cc: Breaking-News-USCanada <BNT@thomsonreuters.com>

Good morning,

Reuters is seeking a response to Oversight Committee Chairwoman Maloney's letter re presidential records and classified material held by former President Trump (below)

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/22309752-2022-09-13cbm-to-steidel-wall-nara-re-mal-certification>

Please include the email from the breaking news team Washington.breaking@allreleases.net in any response.

Many thanks,

Doina Chiacu

Reuters Washington

From: Robin Waldman <robin.waldman@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/13/2022 10:52:46 AM
To: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Seeking any NARA response to Maloney letter

We'll wave in a friendly way when we confirm receipt...

Robin Z. Waldman

(pronouns: she/her/hers)

Director, Public and Media Communications

301.837.0605 (office)

(b) (6) (mobile)



On Tue, Sep 13, 2022 at 10:42 AM John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov> wrote:

For what it's worth, this woman appears to be Romanian, based on her name. ;)

John Valceanu

Director, Communications and Marketing

U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

office: 202-357-5238

cell: (b) (6)

john.valceanu@nara.gov



----- Forwarded message -----

From: 'Chiacu, Doina (Reuters)' via Public and Media Communications <public.affairs@nara.gov>

Date: Tue, Sep 13, 2022 at 9:47 AM

Subject: Seeking any NARA response to Maloney letter

To: National Archives <public.affairs@nara.gov>

Cc: Breaking-News-USCanada <BNT@thomsonreuters.com>

Good morning,

Reuters is seeking a response to Oversight Committee Chairwoman Maloney's letter re presidential records and classified material held by former President Trump (below)

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/22309752-2022-09-13cbm-to-steidel-wall-nara-re-mal-certification>

Please include the email from the breaking news team Washington.breaking@allreleases.net in any response.

Many thanks,

Doina Chiacu

Reuters Washington

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/13/2022 03:17:32 PM
To: Brett Baker <brett.baker@nara.gov>; Simms, John <john.simms@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
Attachments: 2022-08-30 Follow-up letter to NARA re FBI search.pdf

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:22 AM
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>, Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>, John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Cc: Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Ms. Wall,

Please see the attached follow-up letter from Ranking Member James Comer. This letter is also signed by Republican Members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing from you. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

--

John O. Hamilton

Director of Congressional Affairs

National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20408-0001

PH: 202-357-6832

Cell: (b) (6)

Fax: 202-3575959

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
 MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 30, 2022

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
 Acting Archivist of the United States
 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Ms. Wall:

This is in response to your letter dated August 16, 2022, and to inquire as to whether you would like to amend the representations made in that letter regarding the events leading up to, and the National Archives' (NARA) involvement in, the FBI search of Mar-a-Lago. Specifically, in that letter you stated:

Since that time, [the point at which NARA referred the matter of classified documents to the Department of Justice] DOJ has been exclusively responsible for all aspects of this investigation, and NARA has not been involved in the DOJ investigation or any searches that it has conducted. **Accordingly, NARA is unable to provide a briefing or any documents in response to your letter,** and we refer you to the DOJ.¹

The accuracy of this statement has been called into question in recent days.

On August 22, 2022, *Just the News* published a letter demonstrating robust negotiations between NARA and former President Trump's attorney, Evan Corcoran.² Also on August 22, 2022, the *New York Times* reported: "...the material in the boxes prompted archives officials to refer the matter to the Justice Department, which within months had convened a grand jury investigation."³ The article explains that NARA "spent much of 2021 trying to get back material from Mr. Trump," as well as noting NARA's role in preserving presidential records.⁴

¹ Letter from Ms. Debra Steidel Wall, Acting Archivist of the U.S. to Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (Aug. 16, 2022) (emphasis added).

² Ben Whedon, *Full Text of National Archives Letter to Trump on Classified Documents*, JUST THE NEWS (Aug. 22, 2022). Also now available at: <https://www.archives.gov/files/foia/wall-letter-to-evan-corcoran-re-trump-boxes-05.10.2022.pdf>.

³ Maggie Haberman, Jodi Kantor, Adam Goldman, & Ben Protess, *Trump Had More Than 300 Classified Documents at Mar-a-Lago*, N.Y. TIMES (Aug. 22, 2022).

⁴ *Id.*

Acting Archivist Wall
 August 30, 2022
 Page 2 of 5

While your letter acknowledges the referral to the DOJ, it ignores the first two requests made in the August 10, 2022, letter to you.⁵ Specifically, that letter requested:

1. All documents and communications between any employee or agent of NARA and the FBI or Department of Justice, including the Offices of the United States Attorneys, regarding former President Trump;
2. All documents and communications between or among employees or agents of NARA regarding any documents in the possession of former President Trump.⁶

The time period covered by this request—as stated in the letter—is January 20, 2021, to the present.⁷ The letter to Mr. Corcoran, along with any other documents demonstrating negotiations with former President Trump’s team as reported on by the *New York Times*, would certainly be covered by the above requests. Moreover, the letter to Mr. Corcoran specifically mentions communications between NARA and the DOJ (e.g., “NARA informed the Department of Justice...”; “The Assistant Attorney General has advised me...”; “...which the Assistant Attorney General informs me...”). It is puzzling that you and your staff would blatantly deny the existence of such responsive documents or communications to Congress. It is implausible that there would be no internal communications by NARA employees regarding the subject matter of the letter to Mr. Corcoran, as your letter to us would indicate.

Transparency is particularly important in the post-pandemic era when Americans are lacking trust in our nation’s institutions. Congress, and particularly the Oversight Committee, has a duty to provide transparency and accountability for the American people. We request that you revisit your prior communications to Oversight Republicans and amend your prior statements as necessary. Likewise, we expect your office to provide a briefing and documents responsive to the August 10, 2022, letter signed by 20 Republican Members of the Oversight Committee.

On August 24, 2022, the *New York Times* again reported on communications between NARA general counsel, Gary Stern, and former President Trump’s White House attorneys.⁸ While these documents are undoubtedly covered by request number two, above, since NARA employees were courtesy copied and likely received earlier draft copies, to be abundantly clear, please provide the following documents and information related to former President Trump’s records no later than September 13, 2022, for the time period January 1, 2021 and present:

⁵ Letter from Hon. James Comer & nineteen other Republican Members of the H. Oversight & Reform Comm. to Ms. Debra Steidel Wall, Acting Archivist of the U.S., (Aug. 10, 2022) available at <https://republicans-oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-08-10-NARA-MAL567537660.pdf>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Alan Feuer & Maggie Haberman, *Email Shows Early Tension Between Trump & National Archives*, N.Y. TIMES (Aug. 24, 2022) (article notes that John Laster, a NARA official, was copied on the correspondence to former President Trump’s attorneys).

Acting Archivist Wall

August 30, 2022

Page 3 of 5

1. All documents and communications between employees or agents of NARA and President Trump, his representatives, and/or counsel.
2. All documents and communications between employees or agents of NARA and any White House official(s).

To make arrangements to schedule the briefing or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican Staff at (202) 225-5074. Documents may be provided electronically by the same means you have been producing to Committee Democrats over the course of this Congress. The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



James Comer
 Ranking Member
 Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Government Operations



Glenn S. Grothman
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on National Security



Michael Clouse
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy



Nancy Mace
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties



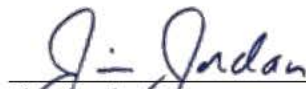
Yvette Herrell
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Environment

2022-08-30 Follow-up letter to NARA re FBI search.pdf

Acting Archivist Wall


August 30, 2022

Page 4 of 5


Jim Jordan
Member of Congress


Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress

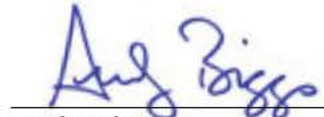

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

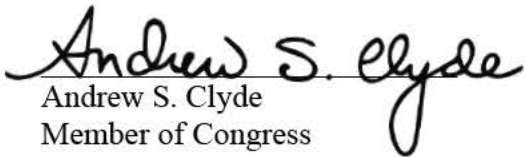

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress


Ralph Norman
Member of Congress


Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Fred Keller
Member of Congress


Andy Biggs
Member of Congress


Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress


C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress


Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress


Pat Fallon
Member of Congress


Byron Donalds
Member of Congress


Mike Flood
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

2022-08-30 Follow-up letter to NARA re FBI search.pdf

Acting Archivist Wall

August 30, 2022

Page 5 of 5

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/13/2022 04:59:21 PM
To: Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Archivist of the United States

We got another Maloney letter?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: CQ.com Alert <CQCustomAlerts@cq.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 13, 2022 at 10:21 AM
Subject: Archivist of the United States
To: <(b) (6)@nara.gov>

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Email alert created by
kslaugh2444

Description: mentions of N

SAVED SEARCH: Archivist of the United States [Alert settings](#)

Letter to National Archives and Records Administration from House Oversight and Reform Chair Maloney regarding President Trump's removal of presidential records and classified material from the White House (PDF)

House Oversight and Reform Committee; Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, D-N.Y.
Correspondence

Directed to Archivist of the United States

Subjects: Congressional Affairs; Executive Branch

[View text on CQ](#)

CQ Hot Docs, 117th Congress (9/13/2022; Posted: 9/13/2022)

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

... **Archivist of the United States**

... September 13, 2022 Ms. Debra Steidel Wall Acting **Archivist of the United States**
National Archives and Records Administration 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20408 Dear Ms. Steidel Wall: I am writing regarding... the
conclusion of a President's term of office, or if a President serves consecutive terms
upon the conclusion of the last term, the **Archivist of the United States** shall
assume responsibility for the custody, control, and preservation of, and access to, the

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc. in a country club. 9 5 Letter
Presidential records
from Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Committee on Oversight and Reform, to David S.
Ferriero, **Archivist of the United States**, National Archives and Records
Administration (Feb. 24, 2022) (online at
<https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2022...> ...Ferriero,
Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records...

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(b) (6)

Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408

(b) (6) (o)

(b) (6) (c)

From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/13/2022 05:09:07 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Archivist of the United States

Yup. We need to start her countdown clock.

On Tue, Sep 13, 2022 at 4:59 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov> wrote:

We got another Maloney letter?

----- Forwarded message -----

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Date: Tue, Sep 13, 2022 at 10:21 AM
Subject: Archivist of the United States
To: <(b) (6)@nara.gov>

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Email alert created by kslaugh2444

Description: mentions of N

SAVED SEARCH: Archivist of the United States Alert settings

Letter to National Archives and Records Administration from House Oversight and Reform Chair Maloney regarding President Trump's removal of presidential records and classified material from the White House (PDF)

House Oversight and Reform Committee; Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, D-N.Y. Correspondence

Directed to Archivist of the United States

Subjects: Congressional Affairs; Executive Branch

[View text on CQ](#)

CQ Hot Docs, 117th Congress (9/13/2022; Posted: 9/13/2022)

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

- ... **Archivist of the United States**
- ... September 13, 2022 Ms. Debra Steidel Wall Acting **Archivist of the United States** National Archives and Records Administration 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20408 Dear Ms. Steidel Wall: I am writing regarding... ..the

conclusion of a President or Vice President serves consecutive terms upon the conclusion of the last term, the **Archivist of the United States** shall assume responsibility for the custody, control, and preservation of, and access to, the Presidential records of that President.7 In a clear... ..them in a country club.?9 5 Letter from Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Committee on Oversight and Reform, to David S. Ferriero, **Archivist of the United States**, National Archives and Records Administration (Feb. 24, 2022) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2022...>...Ferriero, **Archivist of the United States**, National Archives and Records...

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September 13, 2022, 10:21 a.m. ET. CQ Delivery ID: 97314986



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(b) (6)

Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408

(b) (6) (o)

(b) (6) (c)

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/15/2022 03:59:48 PM
To: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Cc: Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

FYI, I have drafted the attached letter in response to Comer's 8/30/22 response letter to Deb. (b) (5)

Thanks,
Gary

 [Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter](#)

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:22 AM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Ms. Wall,

Please see the attached follow-up letter from Ranking Member James Comer. This letter is also signed by Republican Members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing from you. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

From: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/15/2022 04:23:41 PM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

Received. Thank you, Gary.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022, 4:00 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

FYI, I have drafted the attached letter in response to Comer's 8/30/22 response letter to Deb. (b) (5)

Thanks,
Gary

Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



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From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6), (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Ms. Wall,

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you. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter. [Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.](#)

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/15/2022 04:24:45 PM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

Looks good to me.

Thanks,

Jay

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 4:00 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

FYI, I have drafted the attached letter in response to Comer's 8/30/22 response letter to Deb. (b) (5)

Thanks,
Gary

 **Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter**

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:22 AM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Ms. Wall,

Please see the attached follow-up letter from Ranking Member James Comer. This letter is also signed by Republican Members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing from you. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

From: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/15/2022 06:01:48 PM
To: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Cc: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>; John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

I made some slight edits (b) (5). Let me know what you think. Thanks.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 4:25 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

Looks good to me.

Thanks,

Jay

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Thanks,
Gary

Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter

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8601 Adelphi Road
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301-837-3026 (office)
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans
To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

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Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

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John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/15/2022 06:08:51 PM
To: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>; John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

Looks good to me.

Jay

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 6:02 PM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:

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Let me know what you think. Thanks.

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Thanks,
Gary

 [Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter](#)

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



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----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM

Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov> Original via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6)

(b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
<(b) (6)>

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

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John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

From: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/16/2022 06:53:28 AM
To: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Cc: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>; Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>; John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

Looks good to me too.

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 6:09 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

Looks good to me.

Jay

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 6:02 PM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:

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Let me know what you think. Thanks.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 4:25 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

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Jay

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 4:00 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

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Thanks,

Gary

Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (5) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)



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----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM

Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

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Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

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John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832

Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/16/2022 09:02:08 AM
To: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

I agree with your changes. (b) (5)

Thanks

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
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301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



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Thanks,
Gary

[Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter](#)

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
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College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:22 AM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM

Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6)

(b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6)

<(b) (6)>

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Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer


--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)


From: Gary Stern (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 09/21/2022 12:30:32 PM
To: maria.stanwich@nara.gov
Subject: Wall Response to ... - Delete: "that"


Gary Stern accepted a suggestion in the following document

 Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter

 1 resolved

Suggestions

 Maria Stanwich • 4:33 PM, Sep 15 (EDT)
Delete: "that"

 Gary Stern • 12:25 PM, Sep 21 (EDT) **New**
Accepted suggestion

[Open](#)

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because you are a participant in this thread. [Change what Google sends you.](#) You can reply to this email to reply to the discussion.



From: Gary Stern (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 09/21/2022 12:30:31 PM
To: debra.wall@nara.gov
Subject: Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter

New activity in the following document

 Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter

 3 resolved

Suggestions



Debra Wall • 5:58 PM, Sep 15 (EDT)

Delete: "was"



Gary Stern • 12:25 PM, Sep 21 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Debra Wall • 5:53 PM, Sep 15 (EDT)

Replace: (b) (5)



Gary Stern • 12:25 PM, Sep 21 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Debra Wall • 5:58 PM, Sep 15 (EDT)

Replace: (b) (5)



Gary Stern • 12:25 PM, Sep 21 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because you are a participant in the updated items or subscribed to notifications on [Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter](#). [Change what Google sends you](#). You cannot reply to this email.



From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/21/2022 12:31:18 PM
To: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

FYI, (b) (5), which I have made in the draft on Drive (after having accepted Deb and Maria's edits), per link below.

If you're all good with this, then we can get the letter out.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Fri, Sep 16, 2022 at 9:02 AM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

I agree with your changes. (b) (5)

Thanks

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 6:02 PM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:

I made some slight edits (b) (5)

Let me know what you think. Thanks.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 4:25 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

Looks good to me.

Thanks,

Jay

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 4:00 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

FYI, I have drafted the attached letter in response to Comer's 8/30/22 response letter to Deb (b) (5)

[Redacted]

Thanks,
Gary

 [Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter](#)

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
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garym.stern@nara.gov



On Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:22 AM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM

Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6)

(b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6)

<(b) (6)>

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Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/21/2022 01:14:17 PM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>; John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

Looks good.

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 12:31 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

FYI, (b) (5) [REDACTED] which I have made in the draft on Drive (after having accepted Deb and Maria's edits), per link below.

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Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
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garym.stern@nara.gov



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Thanks

Gary M. Stern
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 **Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter**

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Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM

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To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6)

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<(b) (6)>

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Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

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John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

From: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/21/2022 01:21:14 PM
To: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Cc: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>; Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>; John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

Looks good to me, too.

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 1:14 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

Looks good.

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From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM

Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>

(b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6)

<(b) (6)>

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(b) (6)

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Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

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John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/21/2022 01:27:46 PM
To: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Cc: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>; Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

Good letter. Let's get it out the door.

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 1:21 PM John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov> wrote:

Looks good to me, too.

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 1:14 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

Looks good.

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 12:31 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

FYI, (b) (5), which I have made in the draft on Drive (after having accepted Deb and Maria's edits), per link below.

If you're all good with this, then we can get the letter out.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Fri, Sep 16, 2022 at 9:02 AM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

I agree with your changes. (b) (5)

Thanks

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 6:02 PM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:

I made some slight edits (b) (5)

Let me know what you think. Thanks.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 4:25 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

Looks good to me.

Thanks,

Jay

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 4:00 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

FYI, I have drafted the attached letter in response to Comer's 8/30/22 response letter to Deb. (b) (5)

[Redacted]

Thanks,
Gary

 [Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter](#)

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



15B001110

On Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:22 AM John O. Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM

Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>,

(b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6)

<(b) (6)>

Ms. Wall,

Please see the attached follow-up letter from Ranking Member James Comer. This letter is also signed by Republican Members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing from you. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

15B001111

PH: 202-357-6832

Cell: (b) (6)

Fax: 202-3575959

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

From: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/21/2022 01:32:41 PM
To: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Cc: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>; Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

Looks good to me.

MARIA CAROSA STANWICH

Chief of Staff
National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 106
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: 202-357-5420
F: 202-357-5901



On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 1:27 PM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:
Good letter. Let's get it out the door.

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 1:21 PM John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov> wrote:
Looks good to me, too.

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 1:14 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:
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On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 12:31 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:
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Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel

8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740

(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Fri, Sep 16, 2022 at 9:02 AM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

I agree with your changes. (b) (5)

Thanks

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
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(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
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garym.stern@nara.gov



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I made some slight edits (b) (5)

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On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 4:25 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

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Thanks,

Jay

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 4:00 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

FYI, I have drafted the attached letter in response to Comer's 8/30/22 response letter to Deb. (b) (5)

[Redacted]

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:22 AM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM

Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

(b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Ms. Wall,

Please see the attached follow-up letter from Ranking Member James Comer. This letter is also signed by Republican Members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing from you. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

From: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/21/2022 02:08:46 PM
To: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Cc: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>; John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To me as well. Thank you.

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John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
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john.valceanu@nara.gov



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Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
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8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
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garym.stern@nara.gov



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I agree with your changes. (b) (5)

Thanks

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

Gary M. Stern
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8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
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Thanks,
Gary

 [Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter](#)

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



15B001118

On Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:22 AM John O. Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM

Subject: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

<(b) (6)>

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Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/21/2022 02:49:25 PM
To: Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter from Ranking Member James Comer and Oversight Committee Republicans

sending this to Exec Sec now to prep for your signature.

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 2:09 PM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:

To me as well. Thank you.

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 1:21 PM John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov> wrote:

Looks good to me, too.

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



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garym.stern@nara.gov



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Gary M. Stern
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 [Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter](#)

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National Archives and Records Administration
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----- Forwarded message -----

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Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:01 AM

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To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

<(b) (6)>

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Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Staff Assistant

Committee on Oversight and Reform- Minority

Ranking Member James Comer

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20408-0001

PH: 202-357-6832

Cell: (b) (6)

Fax: 202-3575959

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/21/2022 02:53:19 PM
To: NARA Executive Secretariat <ExecSec@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: Letter for A-AOTUS signature

Dear ExecSec - This letter has been approved and is ready for letterhead and signature.

Thanks,
John

 [Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter](#)

--
John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/21/2022 02:59:48 PM
To: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Cc: ExecSec <ExecSec@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6)@nara.gov; (b) (6)@nara.gov; (b) (6)@nara.gov; groups.archive7@nara.gov; (b) (6)@nara.gov
Subject: Re: Letter for A-AOTUS signature

Thank you, received and processing.

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 2:53 PM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

Dear ExecSec - This letter has been approved and is ready for letterhead and signature.

Thanks,
John

[Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter](#)

--
John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

--
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 116
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: (b) (6)



From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/21/2022 03:11:29 PM
To: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter for A-AOTUS signature

John,

Do you have handy the letter that this is responding to? I'm not seeing it on my end to send along with this draft for final approval.

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 2:59 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov> wrote:

Thank you, received and processing.

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 2:53 PM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

Dear ExecSec - This letter has been approved and is ready for letterhead and signature.

Thanks,
John

[Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter](#)

--
John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
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(b) (6)
(b) (6)
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 116
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: (b) (6)



--
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 116
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: (b) (6)



From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/21/2022 03:15:32 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter for A-AOTUS signature
Attachments: 2022-08-30 Follow-up letter to NARA re FBI search.pdf

Yes, attached. Thanks!

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 3:12 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov> wrote:

John,

Do you have handy the letter that this is responding to? I'm not seeing it on my end to send along with this draft for final approval.

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 2:59 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov> wrote:

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Dear ExecSec - This letter has been approved and is ready for letterhead and signature.

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[Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter](#)

--
John O. Hamilton
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--
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 116
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: (b) (6)



--
(b) (6)
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Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: (b) (6)



--

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
 MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 30, 2022

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
 Acting Archivist of the United States
 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Ms. Wall:

This is in response to your letter dated August 16, 2022, and to inquire as to whether you would like to amend the representations made in that letter regarding the events leading up to, and the National Archives' (NARA) involvement in, the FBI search of Mar-a-Lago. Specifically, in that letter you stated:

Since that time, [the point at which NARA referred the matter of classified documents to the Department of Justice] DOJ has been exclusively responsible for all aspects of this investigation, and NARA has not been involved in the DOJ investigation or any searches that it has conducted. **Accordingly, NARA is unable to provide a briefing or any documents in response to your letter,** and we refer you to the DOJ.¹

The accuracy of this statement has been called into question in recent days.

On August 22, 2022, *Just the News* published a letter demonstrating robust negotiations between NARA and former President Trump's attorney, Evan Corcoran.² Also on August 22, 2022, the *New York Times* reported: "...the material in the boxes prompted archives officials to refer the matter to the Justice Department, which within months had convened a grand jury investigation."³ The article explains that NARA "spent much of 2021 trying to get back material from Mr. Trump," as well as noting NARA's role in preserving presidential records.⁴

¹ Letter from Ms. Debra Steidel Wall, Acting Archivist of the U.S. to Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (Aug. 16, 2022) (emphasis added).

² Ben Whedon, *Full Text of National Archives Letter to Trump on Classified Documents*, JUST THE NEWS (Aug. 22, 2022). Also now available at: <https://www.archives.gov/files/foia/wall-letter-to-evan-corcoran-re-trump-boxes-05.10.2022.pdf>.

³ Maggie Haberman, Jodi Kantor, Adam Goldman, & Ben Protess, *Trump Had More Than 300 Classified Documents at Mar-a-Lago*, N.Y. TIMES (Aug. 22, 2022).

⁴ *Id.*

Acting Archivist Wall
 August 30, 2022
 Page 2 of 5

While your letter acknowledges the referral to the DOJ, it ignores the first two requests made in the August 10, 2022, letter to you.⁵ Specifically, that letter requested:

1. All documents and communications between any employee or agent of NARA and the FBI or Department of Justice, including the Offices of the United States Attorneys, regarding former President Trump;
2. All documents and communications between or among employees or agents of NARA regarding any documents in the possession of former President Trump.⁶

The time period covered by this request—as stated in the letter—is January 20, 2021, to the present.⁷ The letter to Mr. Corcoran, along with any other documents demonstrating negotiations with former President Trump’s team as reported on by the *New York Times*, would certainly be covered by the above requests. Moreover, the letter to Mr. Corcoran specifically mentions communications between NARA and the DOJ (e.g., “NARA informed the Department of Justice...”; “The Assistant Attorney General has advised me...”; “...which the Assistant Attorney General informs me...”). It is puzzling that you and your staff would blatantly deny the existence of such responsive documents or communications to Congress. It is implausible that there would be no internal communications by NARA employees regarding the subject matter of the letter to Mr. Corcoran, as your letter to us would indicate.

Transparency is particularly important in the post-pandemic era when Americans are lacking trust in our nation’s institutions. Congress, and particularly the Oversight Committee, has a duty to provide transparency and accountability for the American people. We request that you revisit your prior communications to Oversight Republicans and amend your prior statements as necessary. Likewise, we expect your office to provide a briefing and documents responsive to the August 10, 2022, letter signed by 20 Republican Members of the Oversight Committee.

On August 24, 2022, the *New York Times* again reported on communications between NARA general counsel, Gary Stern, and former President Trump’s White House attorneys.⁸ While these documents are undoubtedly covered by request number two, above, since NARA employees were courtesy copied and likely received earlier draft copies, to be abundantly clear, please provide the following documents and information related to former President Trump’s records no later than September 13, 2022, for the time period January 1, 2021 and present:

⁵ Letter from Hon. James Comer & nineteen other Republican Members of the H. Oversight & Reform Comm. to Ms. Debra Steidel Wall, Acting Archivist of the U.S., (Aug. 10, 2022) available at <https://republicans-oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-08-10-NARA-MAL567537660.pdf>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Alan Feuer & Maggie Haberman, *Email Shows Early Tension Between Trump & National Archives*, N.Y. TIMES (Aug. 24, 2022) (article notes that John Laster, a NARA official, was copied on the correspondence to former President Trump’s attorneys).

Acting Archivist Wall
August 30, 2022
Page 3 of 5

1. All documents and communications between employees or agents of NARA and President Trump, his representatives, and/or counsel.
2. All documents and communications between employees or agents of NARA and any White House official(s).

To make arrangements to schedule the briefing or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican Staff at (202) 225-5074. Documents may be provided electronically by the same means you have been producing to Committee Democrats over the course of this Congress. The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



Michael Clouse
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties

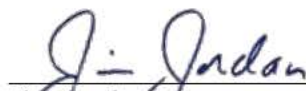



Yvette Herrell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment

Acting Archivist Wall

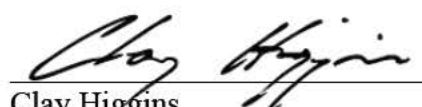
August 30, 2022

Page 4 of 5


Jim Jordan
Member of Congress


Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress

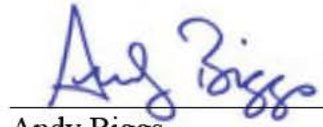

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress


Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Fred Keller
Member of Congress


Andy Biggs
Member of Congress


Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress


C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress


Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress


Pat Fallon
Member of Congress


Byron Donalds
Member of Congress


Mike Flood
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

2022-08-30 Follow-up letter to NARA re FBI search.pdf

Acting Archivist Wall

August 30, 2022

Page 5 of 5

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 09/22/2022 09:44:24 AM
To: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter for A-AOTUS signature
Attachments: Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter_Signed.pdf

Here is the signed document.

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 3:15 PM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:
Yes, attached. Thanks!

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 3:12 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov> wrote:

John,

Do you have handy the letter that this is responding to? I'm not seeing it on my end to send along with this draft for final approval.

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 2:59 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov> wrote:

Thank you, received and processing.

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 2:53 PM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

Dear ExecSec - This letter has been approved and is ready for letterhead and signature.

Thanks,
John

[Wall Response to 08.30.2022 Comer Letter](#)

--
John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

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(b) (6)
(b) (6)
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 116
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
T: (b) (6)



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(b) (6)
(b) (6)
National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 116
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001

T: (b) (6)



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John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
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700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Room 116
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001

T: (b) (6)





Archivist of the
United States

September 22, 2022

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6143
By Email

Dear Ranking Member Comer:

I write in response to the letter of August 30, 2022, from you and your colleagues responding to my letter of August 16, 2022.

I apologize if my response may not have been clear and thus caused confusion. My letter was not intended to “deny the existence of such responsive documents or communications to Congress.” Rather, its intent instead was to convey to you that, as a general matter, the Department of Justice has requested that NARA not share or otherwise disclose to others information related to this matter at this time in order to protect the integrity of DOJ’s ongoing work. I also let you know that “NARA is preserving all records related to this matter.”

We did, of course, release my May 10, 2022, letter to Evan Corcoran, an attorney for former President Trump, addressing the special access request under the Presidential Records Act (PRA) from the incumbent President on behalf of the Department of Justice, after the letter had been released by a PRA representative of Trump.

To the extent that we are able to release any additional records responsive to your request in the future, we will make them available to you.

Sincerely,

Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

Debra Steidel Wall · T: 202.357.5900 · F: 202.357.5901 · debra.wall@nara.gov

National Archives and Records Administration · 8601 Adelphi Road · College Park, MD 20740 · www.archives.gov

From: Google Docs <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 09/26/2022 04:24:32 PM
To: garym.stem@nara.gov
Subject: Wall Response to 09.13.2022 Maloney Letter.draft

New activity in the following document

 Wall Response to 09.13.2022 Maloney Letter.draft

 4 comments

stated



Debra Wall • 4:12 PM, Sep 26 (EDT) **New**

(b) (5)

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

NARA



Debra Wall • 4:14 PM, Sep 26 (EDT) **New**

(b) (5)

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

account



Debra Wall • 4:15 PM, Sep 26 (EDT) **New**

(b) (5)

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

numerous White House officials



John Hamilton • 4:19 PM, Sep 26 (EDT) **New**

(b) (5)

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

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From: Gary Stern (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 09/26/2022 04:48:31 PM
To: debra.wall@nara.gov
Subject: Wall Response to 09.13.2022 Maloney Letter.draft

New activity in the following document

 Wall Response to 09.13.2022 Maloney Letter.draft

 3 comments

stated

 Debra Wall • 4:12 PM, Sep 26 (EDT)

(b) (5)

 Gary Stern • 4:40 PM, Sep 26 (EDT) **New**

(b) (5)


[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

NARA

 Debra Wall • 4:14 PM, Sep 26 (EDT)

(b) (5)

 Gary Stern • 4:42 PM, Sep 26 (EDT) **New**

(b) (5)

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

account

 Debra Wall • 4:15 PM, Sep 26 (EDT)

(b) (5)

 Gary Stern • 4:43 PM, Sep 26 (EDT) **New**

(b) (5)

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

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From: Debra Wall (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 09/27/2022 12:13:40 PM
To: garym.stern@nara.gov
Subject: Wall Response to 09.13.2022 Maloney Letter.draft

New activity in the following document

 Wall Response to 09.13.2022 Maloney Letter.draft


 12 resolved

Comments

2022

 Debra Wall • 10:39 AM, Sep 27 (EDT)

(b) (5)

 Debra Wall • 12:03 PM, Sep 27 (EDT) **New**

Marked as resolved

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

Suggestions

 Gary Stern • 4:41 PM, Sep 26 (EDT)

Replace: (b) (5)

 Debra Wall • 12:03 PM, Sep 27 (EDT) **New**


Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

 William Bosanko • 9:59 AM, Sep 27 (EDT)

Replace: (b) (5)

 Debra Wall • 12:03 PM, Sep 27 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



William Bosanko • 10:00 AM, Sep 27 (EDT)

Delete: "Accordingly,"



Debra Wall • 12:03 PM, Sep 27 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

Reply

Open



Gary Stern • 10:24 AM, Sep 27 (EDT)

Delete: (b) (5)

Replace: (b) (5)



Debra Wall • 12:03 PM, Sep 27 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

Reply

Open



Gary Stern • 10:25 AM, Sep 27 (EDT)

Replace: (b) (5)



Debra Wall • 12:03 PM, Sep 27 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

Reply

Open



Gary Stern • 10:27 AM, Sep 27 (EDT)

Delete: "."



Debra Wall • 12:03 PM, Sep 27 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

Reply

Open



William Bosanko • 11:09 AM, Sep 27 (EDT)

Add: (b) (5)



Debra Wall • 12:02 PM, Sep 27 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

Reply

Open



William Bosanko • 11:02 AM, Sep 27 (EDT)

Add: (b) (5) [Redacted]



Debra Wall • 12:02 PM, Sep 27 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 11:48 AM, Sep 27 (EDT)

Replace: "NARA" with "the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)"



Debra Wall • 11:59 AM, Sep 27 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 11:49 AM, Sep 27 (EDT)

Delete: (b) (5) [Redacted]

Replace: (b) (5) [Redacted]

Add: "As"



Debra Wall • 12:00 PM, Sep 27 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 11:52 AM, Sep 27 (EDT)

Delete: (b) (5) [Redacted]

Add: (b) (5) [Redacted]



Debra Wall • 12:00 PM, Sep 27 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

From: (b) (6) (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com>
Sent time: 09/30/2022 02:43:43 PM
To: garym.stern@nara.gov
Subject: Share request for "Wall Response to 09.13.2022 Maloney Letter.draft"

Share a document?



(b) (6) (b) (6)@nara.gov is **requesting access** to the following document:

 Wall Response to 09.13.2022 Maloney Letter.draft

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From: (b) (6) (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com>
Sent time: 09/30/2022 02:51:32 PM
To: garym.stern@nara.gov
Subject: Share request for "Wall Response to 09.13.2022 Maloney Letter.draft"

Share a document?



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Google Workspace

From: John Laster (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com>
Sent time: 10/03/2022 08:33:32 AM
To: garym.stern@nara.gov
Subject: Share request for "Wall Response to 09.13.2022 Maloney Letter.draft"

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John Laster (john.laster@nara.gov) is **requesting access** to the following document:



Wall Response to 09.13.2022 Maloney Letter.draft

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Google Workspace

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 10/03/2022 08:42:07 AM
To: Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>
Subject: Maloney/Wall Letters
Attachments: 2022-09-13.CBM to Steidel Wall-NARA re MAL Certification.pdf Wall Response to 09.13.2022 Maloney Letter_Signed.pdf

fyi, here is Deb's response to the Maloney letter.

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

September 13, 2022

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Ms. Steidel Wall:

I am writing regarding former President Trump's removal of presidential records and classified material from the White House after his term as president ended, and his dangerous decision to retain these sensitive government records in non-secure locations at his Mar-a-Lago Club. Well-established laws protect classified information and require the return of presidential records to the U.S. Government.¹ In light of revelations that Mr. Trump's representatives misled investigators about his continued possession of government property and that material found at his club included dozens of "empty folders" for classified material, I am deeply concerned that sensitive presidential records may remain out of the control and custody of the U.S. Government.²

Prior to the August 8, 2022, court-authorized search of former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club, Mr. Trump had failed to comply with multiple requests from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and a grand jury subpoena seeking the return of all presidential records and classified documents he retained after leaving office. Two months before the August 8 search, Mr. Trump's attorney certified that all documents bearing classified markings had been returned and that no "copy, written notation, or reproduction of any kind was retained."³ Yet the August 8 search revealed that he continued to improperly possess more than 11,000 government records, including more than 100 documents with classified markings.⁴

As the Committee with primary jurisdiction over the Presidential Records Act (PRA) and

¹ *See, e.g.*, 44 U.S.C. § 2202; 18 U.S.C. § 793.

² *F.B.I. Found 48 Empty Folders that Had Contained Classified Documents at Trump's Home*, New York Times (Sept. 2, 2022) (online at www.nytimes.com/2022/09/02/us/politics/trump-fbi-folders-classified.html); Detailed Property Inventory Pursuant to Court's Preliminary Order (Aug. 30, 2022), *Donald J. Trump v. United States*, S.D.FLA (No. 22-cv-81294).

³ United States' Response to Motion for Judicial Oversight and Additional Relief (Aug. 30, 2022), *Donald J. Trump v. United States*, S.D.FLA (No. 22-cv-81294).

⁴ *Id.*

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall

Page 2

as the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives, the Oversight Committee has been investigating Mr. Trump's mishandling of presidential records for seven months. This inquiry, which is separate from the Department of Justice's (DOJ) ongoing criminal investigation into Mr. Trump's actions, seeks to understand "the full extent of this conduct" in order to "determine what additional steps, including potential legislative reforms, may be needed to ensure the preservation of presidential records for the American people."⁵

In light of the serious risk that Mr. Trump may still be retaining sensitive government records at Mar-a-Lago or his other properties, I urge NARA to seek a personal certification from Donald Trump that he has surrendered all presidential records that he illegally removed from the White House after leaving office. I also ask that the agency conduct an urgent review of presidential records recovered from the Trump White House to assess whether presidential records remain unaccounted for and potentially in the possession of the former president.

Former President Trump's Retention of Thousands of Government Records After Leaving Office, in Violation of the Presidential Records Act

Congress enacted the PRA following the Watergate scandal in which President Richard Nixon improperly sought to retain and destroy White House records, including Oval Office tapes implicating him in obstruction of justice.⁶ The PRA states that the "United States shall reserve and retain complete ownership, possession, and control of Presidential records," and provides:

Upon the conclusion of a President's term of office, or if a President serves consecutive terms upon the conclusion of the last term, the Archivist of the United States shall assume responsibility for the custody, control, and preservation of, and access to, the Presidential records of that President.⁷

In a clear violation of the PRA, upon leaving office, Mr. Trump removed dozens of boxes of presidential records from the White House and retained them at his Mar-a-Lago Club. This club serves as his personal residence and also operates as a resort and wedding venue for five hundred members and their guests.⁸ As former Attorney General William Barr explained, it is "unprecedented for a president to take all this classified information and put them in a country club."⁹

⁵ Letter from Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Committee on Oversight and Reform, to David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration (Feb. 24, 2022) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2022-02-24.CBM%20to%20Ferriero-NARA%20re%20Document%20Request.pdf>).

⁶ E.g., *Presidential Records Act Scandals, from Nixon's Tapes to Trump's "Burn Bags,"* Washington Post (Aug. 9, 2022) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/history/2022/02/07/presidential-records-act-trump-nixon/).

⁷ 44 U.S.C. §§ 2201, 2203(g)(1).

⁸ *A Quick History of Mar-a-Lago, Trump's Lavish Club and Residence*, New York Times (Aug. 9, 2022) (online at www.nytimes.com/2022/08/09/us/mar-a-lago-florida.html).

⁹ *Barr Says No "Legitimate Reason" for Trump to Have Classified Documents*, Washington Post (Sept. 2, 2022) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/09/02/trump-fbi-search-classified-documents-barr/).

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall

Page 3

On May 6, 2021, NARA requested that Mr. Trump return presidential records in his possession.¹⁰ Mr. Trump delayed returning these records for months, while he hosted numerous large events at Mar-a-Lago with inadequate vetting. Reports indicate that a Ukrainian woman posed as a Rothschild heiress to gain access to Mar-a-Lago in May 2021, and mingled with other U.S. officials, sparking a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigation and heightening fears over potential access to the highly sensitive government documents at the club.¹¹

In January 2022, eight months after NARA's initial request, Mr. Trump finally returned 15 boxes of presidential records to NARA. On February 9, 2022, the Committee wrote to NARA requesting information regarding his removal of these documents and their classification level. NARA responded that it had "identified items marked as classified national security information within the boxes."¹² These boxes included 184 documents with classified information, including Special Access Program materials that are among the most sensitive and highly protected information in the U.S. Government.¹³ Despite the obvious security concerns raised by the removal of these government records and their storage at his club, Mr. Trump released a statement that his transfer of records a year after the end of his administration was "viewed as routine and 'no big deal.'"¹⁴

Federal authorities later determined that Mr. Trump had still not returned all records to the U.S. Government and continued to possess classified information. In May 2022, a grand jury subpoena was issued requiring Mr. Trump to turn over all documents in his possession bearing classification markings. After receiving the subpoena, Mr. Trump returned an additional 38 documents with classification markings on June 3, 2022. At that time, Mr. Trump's personal attorney provided a sworn certification that all documents with classified markings had been turned over. Mr. Trump's counsel asserted to FBI agents and a DOJ attorney that all White House records he had transferred to Florida were kept in a single location—a storage room at the Mar-a-Lago Club—and nowhere else. However, when DOJ officials visited the storage room, Mr. Trump's lawyers "explicitly prohibited government personnel from opening or looking

¹⁰ *Inside the 20-Month Fight to Get Trump to Return Presidential Material*, New York Times (Aug. 26, 2020) (online at www.nytimes.com/2022/08/26/us/politics/trump-documents-search-timeline.html).

¹¹ *U.S. Investigates Fake Heiress Who Infiltrated Trump's Mar-A-Lago Resort*, The Guardian (Aug. 27, 2022) (online at www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/aug/27/fake-heiress-infiltrates-mar-a-lago-trump).

¹² Letter from Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Committee on Oversight and Reform, to David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration (Feb. 9, 2022) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2022-02-09.CBM%20to%20Ferriero-NARA%20re%20Trump%20Mar-a-Lago%20FINAL.pdf>); Letter from David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration to Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Committee on Oversight and Reform (Feb. 19, 2022) (online at www.archives.gov/files/foia/ferriero-response-to-02.09.2022-maloney-letter.02.18.2022.pdf).

¹³ *Documents Recovered at Mar-A-Lago Were Among Government's Most Classified, Letter Shows*, Politico (Aug. 23, 2022) (online at www.politico.com/news/2022/08/23/national-archives-letter-trump-security-00053250).

¹⁴ *Trump: Return of Documents to Archives Viewed as Routine and "No Big Deal,"* The Hill (Feb. 10, 2020) (online at <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/593648-trump-says-return-of-documents-to-archives-routine-and-no-big-deal/>).

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall

Page 4

inside any of the boxes that remained in the storage room, giving no opportunity for the government to confirm that no documents with classification markings remained.”¹⁵

On August 8, 2022, after a federal court found probable cause that further classified documents would be found on the premises, the FBI executed a search warrant at Mar-a-Lago. The FBI recovered more than 11,000 government records.¹⁶ Among them were 13 boxes containing more than 100 documents bearing classified markings, including documents with the U.S. Government’s highest classification markings—related to human source intelligence—as well as additional classified documents in former President Trump’s office desk drawer.¹⁷ The classified documents reportedly included information about a foreign government’s nuclear capabilities and top-secret U.S. operations.¹⁸

In the inventory of items seized, DOJ identified 48 empty folders with classified banners, as well as 42 empty folders labeled as “Return to Staff Secretary or Military Aide.” Although it is not clear from the inventory list why these folders were empty, the apparent separation of classified material and presidential records from their designated folders raises questions as to how the materials were stored and whether sensitive material may have been lost or obtained by third parties.¹⁹ Mr. Trump’s former National Security Advisor John Bolton has expressed concern that Mr. Trump might have transferred classified documents to other clubs, such as Bedminster National Golf Club, where he recently hosted a professional golf tournament sponsored and attended by numerous foreign officials.²⁰

Risk that Former President Trump Has Retained Sensitive Documents

On at least three separate occasions, Mr. Trump had the opportunity to turn over all presidential records and classified documents, as demanded by federal authorities, but failed to do so:

¹⁵ United States’ Response to Motion for Judicial Oversight and Additional Relief (Aug. 30, 2022), *Donald J. Trump v. United States*, S.D.FLA (No. 22-Cv-81294); *Trump Team May Have Hidden, Moved Classified Papers, Justice Dept. Says*, Washington Post (Aug. 31, 2022) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/08/31/trump-documents-removed-storage-room/).

¹⁶ Detailed Property Inventory Pursuant to Court’s Preliminary Order (Aug. 30, 2022), *Donald J. Trump v. United States*, S.D.FLA (No. 22-cv-81294); *F.B.I. Found 48 Empty Folders that Had Contained Classified Documents at Trump’s Home*, New York Times (Sept. 2, 2022) (online at www.nytimes.com/2022/09/02/us/politics/trump-fbi-folders-classified.html).

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Material on Foreign Nation’s Nuclear Capabilities Seized at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago*, Washington Post (Sept. 6, 2022) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/09/06/trump-nuclear-documents/).

¹⁹ Detailed Property Inventory Pursuant to Court’s Preliminary Order (Aug. 30, 2022), *Donald J. Trump v. United States*, S.D.FLA (No. 22-cv-81294); *F.B.I. Found 48 Empty Folders That Had Contained Classified Documents at Trump’s Home*, New York Times (Sept. 2, 2022) (online at www.nytimes.com/2022/09/02/us/politics/trump-fbi-folders-classified.html).

²⁰ *Ex-Trump Aides Say He Probably Has More Sensitive Documents at Other Properties*, Huffington Post (Aug. 31, 2022) (online at www.huffpost.com/entry/trump-more-sensitive-documents_n_630fe63ae4b063d5e6215c83).

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall

Page 5

- Upon the conclusion of his term in office, Mr. Trump failed to return all government property, including classified material;
- After receiving a May 2021 request from NARA, Mr. Trump failed to return all government property, including classified material; and
- After receipt of a grand jury subpoena in May 2022, Mr. Trump failed to return all government property, including classified material.

The Committee is concerned that, given this pattern of conduct, Mr. Trump may continue to retain presidential records at non-secure locations, including classified material that could endanger our nation's security and other important records documenting Mr. Trump's activities at the White House. NARA's staff recently informed the Committee that the agency is not certain whether all presidential records are in its custody.²¹

As a result, the Committee requests that NARA conduct an urgent review of presidential records from the Trump Administration to identify any presidential records or categories of presidential records, whether textual or electronic, that NARA has reason to believe may still be outside of the agency's custody and control. Please also assess any other limitations on the completeness, accuracy, and accessibility of presidential records provided to NARA by the Trump Administration.

Please provide the Committee an initial assessment of NARA's findings from this review by September 27, 2022.

In addition, I urge NARA to seek from former President Trump a written certification that he has surrendered all presidential records or classified materials, has not made any copies or reproductions of such materials, and has not transferred any records or government documents to any party other than NARA or DOJ since his term ended.²² Although the President is not required under current law to provide such a certification, I believe that the exceptional circumstances in this case warrant that Mr. Trump do the same so Congress and the American people can fully understand the impact of his actions on our nation's security, take mitigating action, and consider legislative reforms.

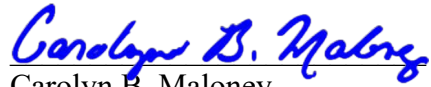
The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

²¹ Call with Staff, Committee on Oversight and Reform, and Staff, National Archives and Records Administration (Aug. 24, 2022).

²² When federal employees separate from government service, they are routinely required to certify that they have surrendered all U.S. Government property, including classified material. *See, e.g.*, United States Information Agency, *Separation Statement* (online at www.gsa.gov/cdnstatic/OF%20109.pdf?forceDownload=1). Secretary of State Hillary Clinton provided a certification, under penalty of perjury, that all emails that were federal records had been returned to the Department of State. Supplement To Defendant's August 7, 2015, Status Report, (Aug. 10, 2015), *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. U.S. Dep't of State*, D.D.C (No. 13-cv-1363).

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
Page 6

Sincerely,


Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Ranking Member



Archivist of the
United States

September 30, 2022

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20514

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

I write in response to your letter of September 13, 2022, requesting that the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) (1) “conduct an urgent review of presidential records from the Trump Administration to identify any Presidential records . . . that NARA has reason to believe may still be outside of the agency’s custody and control,” and (2) “to seek from former President Trump a written certification that he has surrendered all presidential records or classified materials, has not made any copies or reproductions of such materials, and has not transferred any records or government documents to any party other than NARA or DOJ since his term ended.”

With respect to the first issue in your request, I share your interest in ensuring that NARA has in its custody all of the records that should have been transferred to us under the Presidential Records Act at the end of the Trump Administration. As former Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero noted in a press statement issued on February 7, 2022: “The Presidential Records Act mandates that all Presidential records must be properly preserved by each Administration so that a complete set of Presidential records is transferred to the National Archives at the end of the Administration. NARA pursues the return of records whenever we learn that records have been improperly removed or have not been appropriately transferred to official accounts.”

While there is no easy way to establish absolute accountability, we do know that we do not have custody of everything we should. Specifically, Mr. Ferriero informed you in his February 18, 2022, letter that NARA has identified that “some White House staff conducted official business using non-official electronic messaging accounts that were not copied or forwarded into their official electronic messaging accounts, as required by section 2209 of the PRA.” NARA has been able to obtain such records from a number of former officials and will continue to pursue the return of similar types of Presidential records from former officials. As appropriate, NARA

Debra Steidel Wall · T: 202.357.5900 · F: 202.357.5901 · debra.wall@nara.gov

National Archives and Records Administration · 8601 Adelphi Road · College Park, MD 20740 · www.archives.gov

would consult with the Department of Justice on whether “to initiate an action for the recovery of records unlawfully removed,” as established under the Federal Records Act (44 U.S.C. § 2905(a), which NARA can follow with respect to the PRA); in August 2022, DOJ filed a replevin lawsuit against Peter Navarro for the recovery of official email records from Mr. Navarro’s personal email account.

With respect to the second issue concerning whether former President Trump has surrendered all presidential records, we respectfully refer you to the Department of Justice in light of its ongoing investigation.

Sincerely,



Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Ranking Member

From: John Hamilton (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 10/14/2022 07:46:48 PM
To: garym.stem@nara.gov
Subject: Wall Response to ... (b) (5)

John Hamilton added a suggestion to the following document

 Wall Response to 10.14.2022 Comer, Jordan Letter

 1 suggestion



John Hamilton • 7:00 PM, Dec 31, 1969 (EST) **New**

Add: (b) (5)

[Open](#)

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because you are subscribed to all discussions on [Wall Response to 10.14.2022 Comer, Jordan Letter](#). [Change what Google sends you](#). You can reply to this email to reply to the discussion.



From: Google Docs <comments-noreply@docs.google.com>
Sent time: 10/17/2022 12:02:37 PM
To: garym.stern@nara.gov
Subject: Wall Response to 10.14.2022 Comer, Jordan Letter

New activity in the following document

 Wall Response to 10.14.2022 Comer, Jordan Letter

 2 comments

(b) (5)
[Redacted comment]



John Hamilton • 11:41 AM, Oct 17 (EDT) **New**

(b) (5)
[Redacted comment]

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

(b) (5)
[Redacted comment]



John Hamilton • 11:42 AM, Oct 17 (EDT) **New**

(b) (5)
[Redacted comment]

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

 12 resolved

Suggestions



Gary Stern • 10:10 AM, Oct 17 (EDT)

Add: "ing"



William Bosanko • 11:30 AM, Oct 17 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 10:10 AM, Oct 17 (EDT)

Delete: "up to"



William Bosanko • 11:30 AM, Oct 17 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 10:07 AM, Oct 17 (EDT)

Delete: "were obligated"

Add: "were obligated"



William Bosanko • 11:29 AM, Oct 17 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 10:07 AM, Oct 17 (EDT)

Add: "(b) (5)" [Redacted]



John Hamilton • 10:20 AM, Oct 17 (EDT)

(b) (5) [Redacted]



Gary Stern • 11:20 AM, Oct 17 (EDT)

(b) (5) [Redacted]



William Bosanko • 11:29 AM, Oct 17 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 10:08 AM, Oct 17 (EDT)

Delete: "(b) (5)" [Redacted]



William Bosanko • 11:29 AM, Oct 17 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 10:08 AM, Oct 17 (EDT)

Replace: (b) (5)



William Bosanko • 11:29 AM, Oct 17 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 10:09 AM, Oct 17 (EDT)

Delete: (b) (5)



William Bosanko • 11:30 AM, Oct 17 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 10:09 AM, Oct 17 (EDT)

Add: (b) (5)



William Bosanko • 11:30 AM, Oct 17 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 10:10 AM, Oct 17 (EDT)

Delete: (b) (5)

Replace: (b) (5)



William Bosanko • 11:30 AM, Oct 17 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 10:11 AM, Oct 17 (EDT)

Add: (b) (5)



William Bosanko • 11:30 AM, Oct 17 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 10:11 AM, Oct 17 (EDT)

Replace: “,” with “.” Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.



William Bosanko • 11:30 AM, Oct 17 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)



Gary Stern • 10:12 AM, Oct 17 (EDT)

Add: (b) (5)



William Bosanko • 11:30 AM, Oct 17 (EDT) **New**

Accepted suggestion

[Reply](#)

[Open](#)

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because you are a participant in the updated items or subscribed to notifications on [Wall Response to 10.14.2022 Comer, Jordan Letter](#). [Change what Google sends you](#). You cannot reply to this email.



From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 10/24/2022 04:54:04 PM
To: NARA Executive Secretariat <execsec@nara.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Cc: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov; (b) (6) @nara.gov; groups.archive7@nara.gov; (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: Re: Draft NARA Letter to Comer

ExecSec, please put this letter into final with Deb's signature, and then send copies to me and John H.

(b) (7)(E)
[Redacted]

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Mon, Oct 24, 2022 at 4:50 PM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:

Looks good, thanks.

On Mon, Oct 24, 2022 at 4:20 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

I meant to include the link to the latest draft, in case any of you want to give it one last read (as I did):

(b) (7)(E)
[Redacted]

Gary M. Stern
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National Archives and Records Administration
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College Park, MD 20740
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301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Mon, Oct 24, 2022 at 4:03 PM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

Thanks. I'm in transit now, so if it is signed and dated today, I will get it out after 5 pm. If exec sec cannot get to it today, it can

wait until tomorrow.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc.

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 10/24/2022 05:13:06 PM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>; John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft NARA Letter to Comer
Attachments: Wall Response to 10.14.2022 Comer, Jordan Letter.draft.docx.pdf smime.p7s

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(b) (6)

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(b) (7)(E)

[Redacted]

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
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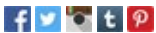
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(b) (7)(E)

[Redacted]

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
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Archivist of the
United States

October 24, 2022

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

By Email

Dear Ranking Members Comer and Jordan:

I write in response to your letter of October 14, 2022, in which you stated:

The fact that NARA transmitted to DOJ a referral that launched a criminal investigation of the former president the same day the Democrat Chairwoman of the Committee inquired whether the agency had been in contact with DOJ raises serious concerns about whether NARA made the referral after pressure from Committee Democrats.

There was, in fact, no connection between these two actions. NARA received the 15 boxes from President Trump on January 18, 2022, and then discovered that they contained classified national security information. Shortly after the discovery, NARA consulted with its Office of Inspector General (OIG), which operates independently of NARA. As DOJ has disclosed publicly in court filings, NARA's OIG subsequently referred the matter to DOJ on February 9, 2022.

Wholly separate and distinct from the above described activities, on February 7, 2022, the *Washington Post* published an article entitled [National Archives had to retrieve Trump White House records from Mar-a-Lago](#). NARA immediately began to receive numerous queries about this article, including from the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. Subsequently, on February 9, 2022, Chairwoman Maloney sent the letter to Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero that is referenced in your letter. The letter did not copy the NARA OIG.

The fact that NARA's OIG sent its referral to DOJ on the same day that Chairwoman Maloney sent her letter to the Archivist is entirely coincidental. At no time and under no circumstances were NARA officials pressured or influenced by Committee Democrats or anyone else. As I emphasized in my October 7, 2022, letter to Ranking Member Comer, NARA has at all times acted professionally and without regard to any political or partisan influence with respect to this matter. Our actions were for the simple purpose of carrying out our core mission of ensuring that NARA has all Presidential records of former Presidents in our custody and control, as required by the Presidential Records Act, and our responsibilities regarding classified national security information.

You have also expressed your concern "about NARA's continued refusal to provide information about its role in the raid on the former president's home." Both I and NARA's Inspector General have already informed Ranking Member Comer that NARA played absolutely no role in, and had no prior knowledge of, the search of President Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence.

We have also explained that DOJ has requested that NARA not share or otherwise disclose to others information related to NARA's recovery of the 15 boxes at this time in order to protect the integrity of DOJ's ongoing work. I have given this same message to Chairwoman Maloney. For this reason, we continue to recommend that you consult directly with DOJ about this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Steidel Wall".

Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 10/24/2022 05:16:36 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>; John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft NARA Letter to Comer
Attachments: Wall Response to 10.14.2022 Comer, Jordan Letter.10.24.2022.pdf

Thanks (b) (6) . I have renamed the file (so it doesn't have "draft" in the filename), so John should send this version, attached.

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Mon, Oct 24, 2022 at 5:13 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov> wrote:

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(b) (6)

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(b) (7)(E)
[Redacted]

Thanks,
Gary

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General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
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On Mon, Oct 24, 2022 at 4:50 PM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:

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Archivist of the
United States

October 24, 2022

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

By Email

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Steidel Wall". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Sent time: 10/24/2022 07:20:02 PM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft NARA Letter to Comer
Attachments: 2022-10-14 - NARA - records response.pdf

I was about to send this, but noticed that it does not have a cc for Maloney and Nadler, who were cc'd on the attached incoming from 10-14. Sorry. I should have caught that earlier. If those names can be added and the letter can be dated for tomorrow, I will send it out then.

Thanks,
John

On Mon, Oct 24, 2022 at 5:17 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

Thanks (b) (6). I have renamed the file (so it doesn't have "draft" in the filename), so John should send this version, attached.

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



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(b) (6)

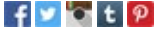
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(b) (7)(E)

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
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(b) (6) (cell)
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garym.stern@nara.gov



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(b) (7)(E)

Gary M. Stern
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301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



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--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2022

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Ms. Steidel Wall:

Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans are continuing to investigate the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) role in the FBI raid of former President Donald J. Trump's home at Mar-a-Lago. Committee Republicans have learned that NARA's actions initiated the Department of Justice's (DOJ) criminal investigation against the former president the same day Committee Democrats inquired about whether a referral to DOJ had been made. The possibility of NARA being pressured by Committee Democrats to pursue the former president is troubling, and Committee Republicans are concerned about NARA's continued refusal to provide information about its role in the raid on the former president's home.¹

According to correspondence between Committee Democrats and NARA, on February 9, 2022, Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney wrote to NARA raising concerns about 15 boxes of presidential records stored at the former president's home at Mar-a-Lago and asking whether the Archivist had been in contact with the Attorney General on this matter.² The same day—February 9, 2022—a “referral” from NARA was “sent to the United States Department of Justice” that initiated an investigation into the former president.³ The fact that NARA transmitted to DOJ a referral that launched a criminal investigation of the former president the same day the Democrat Chairwoman of the Committee inquired whether the agency had been in contact with DOJ raises serious concerns about whether NARA made the referral after pressure from Committee Democrats.

In an October 7, 2022, letter responding to a previous Committee Republicans' October 4, 2022, letter requesting documents about NARA's interactions with Congressional Democrats, you wrote that NARA “take[s] [its] role as a non-political agency very seriously”⁴ but at the same time you failed to provide the documents and other information requested. In order to

¹ E.g., Letter from Ms. Debra Steidel Wall, Acting Archivist, NARA to Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (Sep. 22, 2022); Letter from Ms. Debra Steidel Wall, Acting Archivist, NARA to Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (Oct. 7, 2022).

² Letter from Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform to Hon. David Ferriero, Archivist, NARA (Feb. 9, 2022).

³ Affidavit in support of an application under Rule 41 for a warrant to search and seize, *In the matter of the search of: Locations within the premises to be searched in Attachment A* (“Mar-a-Lago search warrant affidavit”) (S.D. Fla.) (submitted Aug. 5, 2022; entered on docket Aug. 26, 2022).

⁴ Letter from Ms. Debra Steidel Wall, Acting Archivist, NARA to Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (Oct. 7, 2022).

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
October 14, 2022
Page 2 of 2

understand whether and to what extent Congressional Democrats influenced and coordinated with NARA, please provide the documents previously requested in the October 4, 2022, Committee letter. Additionally, please provide the following documents, covering the time period from January 1, 2020, to present, no later than October 28, 2022:

1. All documents and communications between or among employees or agents of NARA and DOJ referring or relating to the Trump Administration's control, transfer, storage, or other handling of documents subject to the Presidential Records Act.

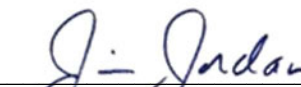
To make arrangements to ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform has specific jurisdiction over NARA under House Rule X. Additionally, the Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight & Reform



Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight & Reform

The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent time: 10/25/2022 06:53:58 AM
To: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Cc: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft NARA Letter to Comer
Attachments: smime.p7s

I have added in the cc/. Should I update the date to today?

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From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 10/25/2022 07:50:49 AM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>; John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
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NATIONAL ARCHIVES



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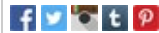
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Archivist of the
United States

October 25, 2022

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

By Email

Dear Ranking Members Comer and Jordan:

I write in response to your letter of October 14, 2022, in which you stated:

The fact that NARA transmitted to DOJ a referral that launched a criminal investigation of the former president the same day the Democrat Chairwoman of the Committee inquired whether the agency had been in contact with DOJ raises serious concerns about whether NARA made the referral after pressure from Committee Democrats.

There was, in fact, no connection between these two actions. NARA received the 15 boxes from President Trump on January 18, 2022, and then discovered that they contained classified national security information. Shortly after the discovery, NARA consulted with its Office of Inspector General (OIG), which operates independently of NARA. As DOJ has disclosed publicly in court filings, NARA's OIG subsequently referred the matter to DOJ on February 9, 2022.

Wholly separate and distinct from the above described activities, on February 7, 2022, the *Washington Post* published an article entitled [National Archives had to retrieve Trump White House records from Mar-a-Lago](#). NARA immediately began to receive numerous queries about this article, including from the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. Subsequently, on February 9, 2022, Chairwoman Maloney sent the letter to Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero that is referenced in your letter. The letter did not copy the NARA OIG.

The fact that NARA's OIG sent its referral to DOJ on the same day that Chairwoman Maloney sent her letter to the Archivist is entirely coincidental. At no time and under no circumstances were NARA officials pressured or influenced by Committee Democrats or anyone else. As I emphasized in my October 7, 2022, letter to Ranking Member Comer, NARA has at all times acted professionally and without regard to any political or partisan influence with respect to this matter. Our actions were for the simple purpose of carrying out our core mission of ensuring that NARA has all Presidential records of former Presidents in our custody and control, as required by the Presidential Records Act, and our responsibilities regarding classified national security information.

You have also expressed your concern "about NARA's continued refusal to provide information about its role in the raid on the former president's home." Both I and NARA's Inspector General have already informed Ranking Member Comer that NARA played absolutely no role in, and had no prior knowledge of, the search of President Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence.

We have also explained that DOJ has requested that NARA not share or otherwise disclose to others information related to NARA's recovery of the 15 boxes at this time in order to protect the integrity of DOJ's ongoing work. I have given this same message to Chairwoman Maloney. For this reason, we continue to recommend that you consult directly with DOJ about this issue.

Sincerely,

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Subject: Re: Draft NARA Letter to Comer

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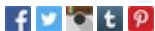
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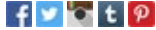
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To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft NARA Letter to Comer

Hi (b) (6) - Can you make one more edit? The cc to Nadler is missing the word "Judiciary". It just says "Committee on the".

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8601 Adelphi Road
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15B001194

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20408-0001

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Cell: (b) (6)

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Sent time: 10/25/2022 08:57:25 AM
To: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft NARA Letter to Comer
Attachments: Wall Response to 10.14.2022 Comer, Jordan Letter.docx.pdf smime.p7s

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Archivist of the
United States

October 25, 2022

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

By Email

Dear Ranking Members Comer and Jordan:

I write in response to your letter of October 14, 2022, in which you stated:

The fact that NARA transmitted to DOJ a referral that launched a criminal investigation of the former president the same day the Democrat Chairwoman of the Committee inquired whether the agency had been in contact with DOJ raises serious concerns about whether NARA made the referral after pressure from Committee Democrats.

There was, in fact, no connection between these two actions. NARA received the 15 boxes from President Trump on January 18, 2022, and then discovered that they contained classified national security information. Shortly after the discovery, NARA consulted with its Office of Inspector General (OIG), which operates independently of NARA. As DOJ has disclosed publicly in court filings, NARA's OIG subsequently referred the matter to DOJ on February 9, 2022.

Wholly separate and distinct from the above described activities, on February 7, 2022, the *Washington Post* published an article entitled [National Archives had to retrieve Trump White House records from Mar-a-Lago](#). NARA immediately began to receive numerous queries about this article, including from the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. Subsequently, on February 9, 2022, Chairwoman Maloney sent the letter to Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero that is referenced in your letter. The letter did not copy the NARA OIG.

The fact that NARA's OIG sent its referral to DOJ on the same day that Chairwoman Maloney sent her letter to the Archivist is entirely coincidental. At no time and under no circumstances were NARA officials pressured or influenced by Committee Democrats or anyone else. As I emphasized in my October 7, 2022, letter to Ranking Member Comer, NARA has at all times acted professionally and without regard to any political or partisan influence with respect to this matter. Our actions were for the simple purpose of carrying out our core mission of ensuring that NARA has all Presidential records of former Presidents in our custody and control, as required by the Presidential Records Act, and our responsibilities regarding classified national security information.

You have also expressed your concern "about NARA's continued refusal to provide information about its role in the raid on the former president's home." Both I and NARA's Inspector General have already informed Ranking Member Comer that NARA played absolutely no role in, and had no prior knowledge of, the search of President Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence.

We have also explained that DOJ has requested that NARA not share or otherwise disclose to others information related to NARA's recovery of the 15 boxes at this time in order to protect the integrity of DOJ's ongoing work. I have given this same message to Chairwoman Maloney. For this reason, we continue to recommend that you consult directly with DOJ about this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Steidel Wall".

Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney,
Chairwoman Committee on Oversight & Reform

The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler,
Chairman Committee on the Judiciary

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Sent time: 10/25/2022 09:06:30 AM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft NARA Letter to Comer

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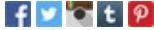
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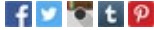
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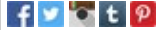
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From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Sent time: 10/25/2022 10:10:03 AM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>; William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft NARA Letter to Comer
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Thanks. I'm in transit now, so if it is signed and dated today, I will get it out after 5 pm. If exec sec cannot get to it today, it can wait until tomorrow.

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959



Archivist of the
United States

October 25, 2022

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

By Email

Dear Ranking Members Comer and Jordan:

I write in response to your letter of October 14, 2022, in which you stated:

The fact that NARA transmitted to DOJ a referral that launched a criminal investigation of the former president the same day the Democrat Chairwoman of the Committee inquired whether the agency had been in contact with DOJ raises serious concerns about whether NARA made the referral after pressure from Committee Democrats.

There was, in fact, no connection between these two actions. NARA received the 15 boxes from President Trump on January 18, 2022, and then discovered that they contained classified national security information. Shortly after the discovery, NARA consulted with its Office of Inspector General (OIG), which operates independently of NARA. As DOJ has disclosed publicly in court filings, NARA's OIG subsequently referred the matter to DOJ on February 9, 2022.

Wholly separate and distinct from the above described activities, on February 7, 2022, the *Washington Post* published an article entitled [National Archives had to retrieve Trump White House records from Mar-a-Lago](#). NARA immediately began to receive numerous queries about this article, including from the staff of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, who informed our staff that Chairwoman Maloney would be sending a letter. Subsequently, on February 9, 2022, the Chairwoman sent the letter to Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero that is referenced in your letter. The letter did not copy the NARA OIG.

The fact that NARA's OIG sent its referral to DOJ on the same day that Chairwoman Maloney sent her letter to the Archivist is entirely coincidental. At no time and under no circumstances were NARA officials pressured or influenced by Committee Democrats or anyone else. As I emphasized in my October 7, 2022, letter to Ranking Member Comer, NARA has at all times acted professionally and without regard to any political or partisan influence with respect to this matter. Our actions were for the simple purpose of carrying out our core mission of ensuring that NARA has all Presidential records of former Presidents in our custody and control, as required by the Presidential Records Act, and our responsibilities regarding classified national security information.

You have also expressed your concern "about NARA's continued refusal to provide information about its role in the raid on the former president's home." Both I and NARA's Inspector General have already informed Ranking Member Comer that NARA played absolutely no role in, and had no prior knowledge of, the search of President Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence.

We have also explained that DOJ has requested that NARA not share or otherwise disclose to others information related to NARA's recovery of the 15 boxes at this time in order to protect the integrity of DOJ's ongoing work. I have given this same message to Chairwoman Maloney. For this reason, we continue to recommend that you consult directly with DOJ about this issue.

Sincerely,



Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney,
Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight & Reform

The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 10/25/2022 10:17:59 AM
To: Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Draft NARA Letter to Comer
Attachments: Wall Response to 10.14.2022 Comer, Jordan Letter.docx.pdf

Let me know when you've sent it out, so I can then post it online.

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>
Date: Tue, Oct 25, 2022 at 10:10 AM
Subject: Re: Draft NARA Letter to Comer
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Cc: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nara.gov>, William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov>

Hello,
Here is the Comer letter with the (b) (5). Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything else.
Thanks!
(b) (6)

On Tue, Oct 25, 2022 at 8:39 AM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:
That explains it, since I could've sworn that I had put in the cc's in the draft. Thanks

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch Inc
On Tue, Oct 25, 2022 at 8:25 AM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> @nara.gov wrote:

Hello,
Use this file. There was an extra blank page on the previous email.
Thanks.

(b) (6)

On Tue, Oct 25, 2022 at 8:22 AM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> @nara.gov wrote:

Good morning,
Here is the revised letter with today's date and the cc's.
Let me know if you need anything else. Thanks!

(b) (6)

On Mon, Oct 24, 2022 at 7:20 PM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

I was about to send this, but noticed that it does not have a cc for Maloney and Nadler, who were cc'd on the attached incoming from 10-14. Sorry. I should have caught that earlier. If those names can be added and the letter can be dated for tomorrow, I will send it out then.

Thanks,
John

On Mon, Oct 24, 2022 at 5:17 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

Thanks Maureen. I have renamed the file (so it doesn't have "draft" in the filename), so John should send this version, attached.

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Mon, Oct 24, 2022 at 5:13 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> @nara.gov wrote:

Hello,
Here is the signed letter from Deb. Please let me know if you need anything else.

(b) (6)

On Mon, Oct 24, 2022 at 4:54 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

ExecSec, please put this letter into final with Deb's signature, and then send copies to me and John H.

(b) (7)(E)

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740

(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Mon, Oct 24, 2022 at 4:50 PM Debra Wall <debra.wall@nara.gov> wrote:
Looks good, thanks.

On Mon, Oct 24, 2022 at 4:20 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:
I meant to include the link to the latest draft, in case any of you want to give it one last read (as I did):

(b) (7)(E)

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
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College Park, MD 20740

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301-837-3026 (office)
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garym.stern@nara.gov



On Mon, Oct 24, 2022 at 4:03 PM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:
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John O. Hamilton
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Washington, DC 20515

By Email

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Sincerely,



Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney,
Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight & Reform

The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent time: 11/15/2022 04:01:44 PM
William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>; Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John
To: <john.hamilton@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; Waldman, Robin <robin.waldman@nara.gov>; Donius, Susan
<susan.donius@nara.gov>
Subject: WSJ Article re 15 Boxes

fyi, Alex Leary of the Wall Street Journal called me today saying that they will be running a story tomorrow on this issue, (b) (5)

He specifically referenced our [February 8, 2022 press statement](#), which noted that "NARA obtained the cooperation of Trump representatives to locate Presidential records that had not been transferred to the National Archives at the end of the Trump administration," and that "NARA officials did not visit or 'raid' the Mar-a-Lago property."

(b) (5)

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



From: Robin Waldman <robin.waldman@nara.gov>
Sent time: 11/15/2022 04:10:11 PM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: WSJ Article re 15 Boxes

Thanks, Gary.

Robin Z. Waldman

(pronouns: she/her/hers)
Director, Public and Media Communications
301.837.0605 (office)
(b) (6) (mobile)



On Tue, Nov 15, 2022 at 4:02 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

fyi, Alex Leary of the Wall Street Journal called me today saying that they will be running a story tomorrow on this issue, (b) (5)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] He specifically referenced our [February 8, 2022 press statement](#), which noted that "NARA obtained the cooperation of Trump representatives to locate Presidential records that had not been transferred to the National Archives at the end of the Trump administration," and that "NARA officials did not visit or 'raid' the Mar-a-Lago property."

(b) (5)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
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