

Republican National Committee
310 First St. SE
Washington, D.C. 20003


May 20, 2015

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

VIA U.S. CERTIFIED MAIL

Freedom of Information Officer
Office of Information Programs and Services
A/GIS/IPS/RL
U. S. Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20522-8100

Dear FOIA Officer:

Under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), I hereby request the following:

Any and all records, correspondence, and memos, in any format, that mention, reference, and/or relate to the FOIA, including any FOIA requests, that were sent to or from any of the following Department of State employees:

- Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State;
- Philippe Reines, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Public Affairs;
- Anne-Marie Slaughter, Director of Policy Planning;
- Reta J. Lewis, United States Special Representative for Global Intergovernmental Affairs;
- Capricia Penavic Marshall, Chief of Protocol, Office of the Chief of Protocol;
- Dennis Cheng, Deputy Chief of Protocol, Office of the Chief of Protocol;
- David L. Goldwyn, Coordinator for International Energy Affairs;
- Carlos Pascual, Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs;
- Jacob (Jake) Sullivan, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy/ Planning, Office of the Secretary;
- Maura Pally, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs;
- Kris M. Balderston, Special Representative for Global Partnerships;
- Cheryl Mills, Counselor and Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary;
- Caitlin Klevorick, Special Assistant, Counselor of the Department;
- Nora Toiv, Special Assistant, Counselor of the Department;
- Joanne Lasczych, Personal Assistant, Counselor of the Department;
- Brock Johnson, Special Assistant, Counselor of the Department;
- Ethan Gelber, Staff Assistant, Counselor of the Department;

- Meghann Curtis, Senior Adviser, Counselor of the Department;
- Cindy Huang, Cindy Huang, Counselor of the Department;
- Marisa Plowden, Special Assistant, Counselor of the Department;
- Curt Reintsma, Coordinator, Counselor of the Department;
- Huma Abedin, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary;
- Claire Coleman, Office Manager/ Personal Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Andrew Shapiro, Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary;
- Lona Valmoro, Scheduling/ Staff Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Linda Dewan, Scheduling, Office of the Secretary;
- Joseph Macmanus, Executive Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Alice Wells, Executive Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Lawrence Randolph, Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Maria Sand, Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Nima Abbaszadeh, Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Bernadette Meehan, Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Timmy T. Davis, Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Laura Lucas, Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Zia Syed, Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Jennifer Davis, Executive Assistant/ Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Courtney Kramer Beale, Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Lauren Jiloty, Staff Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Rob Russo, Staff Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Neal Larkins, Staff Assistant, Office of the Secretary;
- Daniel Fogarty, Staff Assistant, Office of the Secretary.

The scope of this FOIA request is inclusive of any common variations of the names provided above. The time frame of this request is from January 21, 2009 to February 1, 2013. To clarify, the job titles provided are for assistance in identification purposes only and my request is not limited to only when an individual is acting in the capacity of the identified position.

In order to help to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am requesting on behalf of the Republican National Committee (RNC) and this information is not primarily in the commercial interest of the RNC. I am willing to pay fees for this request up to a maximum of \$100. If you estimate that the fees will exceed this limit, please inform me first. However, I would also like to request a waiver of all fees in that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the operations of the Department of State.

Where exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act are discretionary, I ask you not withhold such records, even if they might qualify for withholding under the law. If you withhold any records as exempt, please redact the exempted portions and release the remainder of the records. In any case where you withhold any records, please explain in writing any such denial. Please release all reasonably segregable material.

The motivation for this FOIA request stems in part from an article published by *The Wall Street Journal* on May 19, 2015, which reads, in pertinent part:

When Hillary Clinton was secretary of state, her staff scrutinized politically sensitive documents requested under public-records law and sometimes blocked their release, according to people with direct knowledge of the activities. ... [Chief of Staff Cheryl] Mills, this person added, told a records specialist that if he released records she wanted held back, Mrs. Clinton's office wouldn't comply with any future document requests on any topic. ... Two others with knowledge of State Department records procedures said political appointees were allowed greater say than the FOIA experts thought was appropriate. It was hard to push back against the political staff, one said. ... A person knowledgeable about the department's records process said that there is no pressure on bureaus or embassies to respond to document searches in a timely fashion; that FOIA specialists hold little stature; and that there are no consequences for people who don't produce documents requested.

As the article indicates, "decisions on what to release belong with each agency's FOIA staff" and FOIA experts should be free of any pressure or interference from political appointees.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A large, dark, irregular blacked-out area redacting the signature of the sender.

Republican National Committee
310 First St. SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

A smaller, dark, irregular blacked-out area redacting the contact information, likely a phone number or email address.