



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Sixth Floor
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

July 30, 2026

Re: FOIA-2026-04079
ADF:ERH

Dear [REDACTED]:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act request dated and received in this Office on July 18, 2026 seeking written authorization for a January 2026 search of an unnamed Washington Post reporter's residence. **Please note that this Office was closed due to a lapse in funding appropriations from October 1, 2025 through November 12, 2025, which has resulted in a delay in responding to your request.**

A proper Freedom of Information Act request for records must reasonably describe the records sought. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(A); *see also* 28 C.F.R. § 16.3(b)(2022). After carefully reviewing your request, I have determined that you did not reasonably describe the subject of your request in a manner which allows agency personnel to locate the requested records with a reasonable amount of effort. Your request does not describe your request in enough specificity to enable this Office to conduct a search. Accordingly, your request is not reasonably described as required by the FOIA. If you would like to discuss reformulation of your request, you may contact this Office.

You may contact our Acting FOIA Public Liaison, Eric Hotchkiss, for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request at: Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Sixth Floor, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001; telephone at 202-514-3642.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448.

If you are not satisfied with this Office's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Sixth Floor, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically submitted within ninety days of the

date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew D. Fiorillo".

for

Andrew D. Fiorillo

Chief, Initial Request Staff