

Exhibit 9



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

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

February 26, 2024

Mike Howell
oversightproject@heritage.org

Re: FOIA-2024-01122
DRH:ERH:GMG

Dear Mike Howell:

This is to further acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated and received in this Office on February 12, 2024, seeking communications between the Office of Special Counsel Robert Hur and private counsel for President Joseph Biden as referenced in the Report of Special Counsel Hur.

You have requested expedited processing of your request pursuant to the Department's standard involving "[a] matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity which affect public confidence." See 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(iv) (2018). Pursuant to Department policy, we directed your request to the Director of Public Affairs, who makes the decision whether to grant or deny expedited processing under this standard. See *id.* § 16.5(d)(2). The Director has determined that your request for expedited processing should be granted.

Although your request has been granted expedited processing, we are required to advise you that the records you seek require a search in and/or consultation with another Office, and so your request falls within "unusual circumstances." See 5 U.S.C. 552 § (a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii) (2012 & Supp. V 2017). Accordingly, we have not yet completed a search to determine whether there are records within the scope of your request. The time needed to process your request will necessarily depend on the complexity of our records search and on the volume and complexity of any records located. Any decision with regard to the application of fees will be made only after we determine whether fees will be implicated for this request. Your request has been assigned to the expedited track and will be processed as soon as practicable.

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; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request for expedited processing, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy, United

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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 "Douglas R. Hibbard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and "H".

Douglas R. Hibbard
Chief, Initial Request Staff