

Exhibit R

From: State Department FOIA <noreply@mail.foia.state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 4:49 PM
To: Partlow, Joshua <Joshua.Partlow@washpost.com>
Subject: FOIA Request Letter

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Thank you for filing your FOIA request online on 2/17/2020. Here is a review of your request.

The records I request can be described as follows:

I request any invoices, receipts or other documents describing payments by the State Department to Trump World Seoul in South Korea between January 1, 2017 to the present.

The time period of my request is from 01/01/2017 to 02/17/2020

I am a representative of the news media seeking information as part of a news gathering effort and not for commercial use.

Additional documentation or comments will be required.

I represent The Washington Post

I am willing to pay \$25 for my request.

I request a waiver of all fees for this request.

Reason: As a representative of the news media, The Washington Post qualifies for news media fee status under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II) and, therefore, may not be charged search and review fees. (See *National Security Archive v. U.S. Department of Defense*, 880 F.2d 1381 (D.C. Cir. 1989), cert denied, 110 S Ct. 1478 (1990)). This request is made as part of a scholarly and news research project that is intended for publication and is not for commercial use. For details on the Post's news reporting activities please see our website at www.washingtonpost.com. As you know, the FOIA prohibits agencies from charging news media organizations duplication fees if the agency does not meet its twenty working day time limit (thirty working days for "unusual" requests). Additionally, because this information will be used by the Washington Post for the preparation of news articles that will be broadly disseminated to the general public, it will contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the Post's commercial interest. As such, please grant a fee waiver for any remaining fees incurred. Please notify me before incurring any cost over \$100. To expedite the release of the requested documents, please disclose them on an interim basis in electronic format as they become available to you, without waiting until all the documents have been processed. If you have any questions regarding my request, including its scope, please contact me at joshua.partlow@washpost.com or 202-334-8385 (office) or 202-299-4580 (cell).

I have a compelling need for expeditious handling:

- An urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity exists.
This option available for ONLY PERSONS PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN DISSEMINATING INFORMATION.

- I am a representative of the Washington Post, a news media organization primarily engaged in the dissemination of information that is urgently needed to inform the public of actual or alleged Federal Government activity. Because this request may show payments from the federal government to a sitting president's business, it qualifies for expedited processing. I certify that this information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. (See *Al-Fayed v. C.I.A.*, 254 F.3d 300, 310 (D.C. Cir. 2001); *Bloomberg, L.P. v. U.S. Food & Drug Admin.*, 500 F.Supp.2d 371, 378 (S.D.N.Y. 2007).

My additional comments are as follows:

If you regard these documents as potentially exempt from the FOIA's disclosure requirements, I request that you nonetheless exercise your discretion to disclose them. As the FOIA requires, please release all segregable, non-exempt portions of documents. To permit me to reach an intelligent and informed decision whether to file an administrative appeal of any denied material, please describe any withheld records (or portions thereof) and explain the basis for your exemption claims. As required by the statute, please review whether there is any foreseeable harm from disclosing the requested records, or if any potential harm would be limited in comparison to the public interest in disclosure. As required by the statute, please release all such information, even if it technically may fall under a FOIA exemption.

Contact Information

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