

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

\_\_\_\_\_) )  
HERITAGE FOUNDATION., ) )  
214 Massachusetts Ave. N.E. ) )  
Washington, D.C. 20002 ) )  
) )  
MIKE HOWELL ) )  
214 Massachusetts Ave. N.E. ) )  
Washington, D.C. 20002 ) )  
) )  
*Plaintiffs,* ) )  
) )  
v. ) )  
) )  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ) )  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. ) )  
Washington, D.C. 20408 ) )  
) )  
*Defendant.* ) )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

Case No. 23-cv-327

**COMPLAINT AND PRAYER FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

Plaintiffs THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION and MIKE HOWELL (collectively “Plaintiffs”) for their complaint against Defendant DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (“DOJ” or “Department”) allege on knowledge as to Plaintiffs, and on information and belief as to all other matters, as follows:

1. This is an action under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552, to compel the production of information from DOJ component the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) relating to how the FBI allocates important law enforcement resources. As Plaintiffs explained, in their FOIA request, they seek this information to inform their more general inquiry into whether the FBI has been politicized. Regrettably, Plaintiffs’ FOIA Request

has gone unanswered. Plaintiffs have no remedy but to file this action to compel the Department to comply with FOIA.

### **PARTIES**

2. Plaintiff, The Heritage Foundation is a Washington, D.C.-based nonpartisan public policy organization with a national and international reputation whose mission is to “formulate and promote public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense.” Heritage Foundation, *About Heritage*, found at <https://www.heritage.org/about-heritage/mission> (last visited Feb. 5, 2023). Heritage is a not-for-profit section 501(c)(3) organization which engages in substantial dissemination of information to the public. Heritage operates a national news outlet, *The Daily Signal*.

3. Plaintiff Mike Howell leads the Heritage Foundation’s Oversight Project and is an author for *The Daily Signal*. The Oversight Project is an initiative aimed at obtaining information via Freedom of Information Act requests and other means in order to best inform the public and Congress for the purposes of Congressional oversight. The requests and analysis of information is informed by Heritage’s deep policy expertise.

4. Defendant DOJ is a federal agency of the United States within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(f)(1) whose mission is to “uphold the rule of law, to keep our country safe, and to protect civil rights.” About DOJ; Our Mission, found at <https://www.justice.gov/about#:~:text=Mission,and%20to%20protect%20civil%20rights>. (last visited Feb. 5, 2022).

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) because this action is brought in the District of Columbia and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the resolution of disputes under FOIA presents a federal question.

6. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Defendant DOJ's principal place of business is in the District of Columbia.

### **PLAINTIFF'S FOIA REQUEST**

7. Plaintiffs submitted their FOIA Request on September 12, 2022. FOIA Request No. 1561288 (Sept. 12, 2022) ("Request" or "Plaintiffs' FOIA Request") (Ex. 1). The Request sought:

- 1) Records sufficient to establish the total number of labor hours validated in WebTA by Federal Bureau of Investigation special agents assigned to the Washington Field Office from May 31, 2020 to August 31, 2020.
- 2) Records sufficient to establish the total number of labor hours validated in WebTA by Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington Field Office special agents from May 31, 2020 to August 31, 2020 attributed to investigations of any and all matters related to left wing domestic terrorism to include "violent, extremist agendas—anarchists like Antifa and other agitators" arising from the summer 2020 riots.

Request at 1. The Request sought a fee waiver. *Id.* at 3–4.

### **DOJ'S Failure to Respond**

8. On September 23, 2022, the FBI acknowledged Plaintiffs' FOIA Request. Letter from Michael G. Seidel to Mike Howell (Sept. 27, 2022) (Ex. 2). That letter placed Plaintiffs in the "others" fee category and reserved decision on a fee waiver.

9. 20 working days from September 12, 2022 is October 11, 2022.

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**Violation FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §552**

**Failure to Conduct Adequate Searches for Responsive Records.**

10. Plaintiffs re-allege paragraphs 1–11 as if fully set out herein.
11. FOIA requires all doubts to be resolved in favor of disclosure. “Transparency in government operations is a priority of th[e Biden] . . . Administration.” Attorney General, *Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies: Freedom of Information Act Guidelines*, at 4 (Mar. 15, 2022).
12. Plaintiffs properly requested records within the possession, custody, and control of Defendant.
13. Defendant is subject to FOIA and therefore must make reasonable efforts to search for requested records.
14. Defendant has failed to promptly review agency records for the purpose of locating and collecting those records that are responsive to Plaintiffs’ FOIA Request.
15. Defendant’s failure to conduct searches for responsive records violates FOIA and the DOJ regulations.
16. Plaintiffs have a statutory right to the information they seek.
17. Defendant is in violation of FOIA.
18. Plaintiffs are being irreparably harmed by reason of Defendant’s violation of FOIA. Plaintiffs are being denied information to which they are statutorily entitled and that is important to carrying out Plaintiffs’ functions as a non-partisan research and educational institution and publisher of news. Plaintiffs will continue to be irreparably harmed unless Defendant is compelled to comply with the law.
19. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law.

20. Plaintiffs have constructively exhausted their administrative remedies.

**SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**Violation of FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552**  
**Wrongful Withholding of Non-Exempt Responsive Records**

21. Plaintiffs re-allege paragraphs 1–20 as if fully set out herein.

22. FOIA requires all doubts to be resolved in favor of disclosure. “Transparency in government operations is a priority of th[e Biden] . . . Administration.” Attorney General, *Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies: Freedom of Information Act Guidelines*, at 4 (Mar. 15, 2022).

23. Plaintiffs properly requested records within the possession, custody, or control of Defendant.

24. Defendant is subject to FOIA, and therefore must release to a FOIA requester any non-exempt records and provide a lawful reason for withholding any records.

25. Defendant is wrongfully withholding non-exempt records requested by Heritage by failing to produce any records responsive to Plaintiffs’ FOIA Request.

26. Defendant is wrongfully withholding non-exempt-agency records requested by Plaintiffs by failing to segregate exempt information in otherwise non-exempt records responsive to Plaintiffs’ FOIA Request.

27. Defendant’s failure to provide all non-exempt responsive records violates FOIA and DOJ regulations.

28. Plaintiffs have a statutory right to the information they seek.

29. Defendant is in violation of FOIA.

30. Plaintiffs are being irreparably harmed by reason of Defendant’s violation of FOIA. Plaintiffs are being denied information to which they are statutorily entitled and that is

important to carrying out Plaintiffs’ functions as a non-partisan research and educational institution and publisher of news. Plaintiffs will continue to be irreparably harmed unless Defendant is compelled to comply with the law.

31. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law.

32. Plaintiffs have constructively exhausted their administrative remedies.

**THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**Violation of FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552**  
**Wrongful Denial of Fee Waiver**

33. Plaintiffs re-allege paragraphs 1–32 as if fully set out herein.

34. FOIA requires all doubts to be resolved in favor of disclosure. “Transparency in government operations is a priority of th[e Biden] . . . Administration.” *Attorney General, Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies: Freedom of Information Act Guidelines*, at 4 (Mar. 15, 2022).

35. Plaintiffs properly requested records within the possession, custody, or control of Defendant.

36. Defendant has constructively denied Plaintiffs’ application for a fee waiver pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii) & (iii) and 28 C.F.R. §16.10(k).

37. The Request does not have a commercial purpose because Heritage is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Howell acts in his capacity as a Heritage employee, and release of the information sought does not further Plaintiffs’ commercial interest.

38. Plaintiffs are members of the news media as they “gather[] information of potential interest to a segment of the public, use[] . . . [their] editorial skills to turn the raw materials into a distinct work, and distribute[] that work to an audience” via Heritage’s major news outlet, *The Daily Signal*. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(a)(ii).

39. Disclosure of the information sought by the Request also “is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

40. Defendant has “failed to comply with a[]time limit under paragraph (6)” as to the Request. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(viii)(I).

41. Plaintiffs have a statutory right to a fee waiver.

42. Defendant is in violation of FOIA by denying a fee waiver.

43. Plaintiffs are being irreparably harmed by reason of Defendant’s violation of FOIA. Plaintiffs are being denied a fee waiver to which they are statutorily entitled and that is important to carrying out Plaintiffs’ functions as a non-partisan research and educational institution and publisher of news. Plaintiffs will continue to be irreparably harmed unless Defendant is compelled to comply with the law.

44. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law.

45. Plaintiffs have constructively exhausted their administrative remedies.

**FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**Violation of FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552**  
**Statutory Bar Against Charging Fees**

46. Plaintiffs re-allege paragraphs 1–45 as if fully set out herein.

47. FOIA requires all doubts to be resolved in favor of disclosure. “Transparency in government operations is a priority of th[e Biden] . . . Administration.” Attorney General, *Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies: Freedom of Information Act Guidelines*, at 4 (Mar. 15, 2022).

48. Plaintiffs properly requested records within the possession, custody, or control of Defendant.

49. The Request does not have a commercial purpose because Heritage is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Howell acts in his capacity as a Heritage employee, and release of the information sought does not further Plaintiffs' commercial interest.

50. Plaintiffs are members of the news media as they “gather[] information of potential interest to a segment of the public, use[] . . . [their] editorial skills to turn the raw materials into a distinct work, and distribute[] that work to an audience” via Heritage’s major news outlet, *The Daily Signal*. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(a)(ii).

51. Disclosure of the information sought by the Request also “is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

52. Defendant has “failed to comply with a[]time limit under paragraph (6)” as to the Request. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(viii)(I).

53. Defendant has not determined “more than 5,000 pages are necessary to respond to this request,” or discussed with Plaintiffs how Plaintiffs “could effectively limit the scope of the request.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(viii)(II)(cc).

54. Defendant is currently statutorily barred from charging fees related to Plaintiffs’ FOIA Request. Therefore, Plaintiffs have a statutory right to have their request processed without being charged any fees.

55. Plaintiffs are being irreparably harmed by reason of Defendant’s violation of FOIA. Plaintiffs will continue to be irreparably harmed unless Defendant is compelled to comply with the law.

56. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law.

57. Plaintiffs have constructively exhausted their administrative remedies.



**WHEREFORE** as a result of the foregoing, Plaintiffs pray that this Court:

- A. Order Defendant to conduct a search or searches reasonably calculated to uncover all records responsive to Plaintiffs' FOIA Request;
- B. Order Defendant to produce, within twenty days of the Court's order, or by such other date as the Court deems appropriate, any and all non-exempt records responsive to Plaintiffs' FOIA Request and indexes justifying the withholding of any responsive records withheld in whole or in part under claim of exemption;
- C. Enjoin Defendant from continuing to withhold any and all non-exempt records responsive to Plaintiffs' FOIA Request;
- D. Enjoin Defendant from assessing fees or costs for Plaintiffs' FOIA Request;
- E. Retain jurisdiction over this matter as appropriate;
- F. Award Plaintiffs their costs and reasonable attorneys' fees in this action as provided by 5 U.S.C. § 522(a)(4)(E); and
- G. Grant such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: February 6, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Samuel Everett Dewey

SAMUEL EVERETT DEWEY

(No. 999979)

Chambers of Samuel Everett Dewey, LLC

Telephone: (703) 261-4194

Email: samueledewey@sedchambers.com

ROMAN JANKOWSKI

(No. 975348)

The Heritage Foundation

Telephone: (202) 489-2969

Email: Roman.Jankowski@heritage.org

*Counsel for Plaintiffs*



<input type="radio"/> <b>G. Habeas Corpus/ 2255</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 530 Habeas Corpus – General <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motion/Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Habeas Corpus – Alien Detainee	<input type="radio"/> <b>H. Employment Discrimination</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Civil Rights – Employment (criteria: race, gender/sex, national origin, discrimination, disability, age, religion, retaliation)  *(If pro se, select this deck)*	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>I. FOIA/Privacy Act</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions (if Privacy Act)  *(If pro se, select this deck)*	<input type="radio"/> <b>J. Student Loan</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (excluding veterans)
<input type="radio"/> <b>K. Labor/ERISA (non-employment)</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Labor Railway Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="radio"/> <b>L. Other Civil Rights (non-employment)</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting (if not Voting Rights Act) <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Americans w/Disabilities – Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Americans w/Disabilities – Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<input type="radio"/> <b>M. Contract</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran’s Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholder’s Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<input type="radio"/> <b>N. Three-Judge Court</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Civil Rights – Voting (if Voting Rights Act)

**V. ORIGIN**  
 1 Original Proceeding  
  2 Removed from State Court  
  3 Remanded from Appellate Court  
  4 Reinstated or Reopened  
  5 Transferred from another district (specify)  
  6 Multi-district Litigation  
  7 Appeal to District Judge from Mag. Judge  
  8 Multi-district Litigation – Direct File

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE.)**

<b>VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	<b>DEMAND \$</b> <b>JURY DEMAND:</b>	Check YES only if demanded in complaint YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY</b>	(See instruction)	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If yes, please complete related case form

DATE: <u>February 6, 2023</u>	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD <u>/s/ Samuel Everett Dewey</u>
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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET JS-44**  
 Authority for Civil Cover Sheet

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and services of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. Listed below are tips for completing the civil coversheet. These tips coincide with the Roman Numerals on the cover sheet.

- I.** COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF/DEFENDANT (b) County of residence: Use 11001 to indicate plaintiff if resident of Washington, DC, 88888 if plaintiff is resident of United States but not Washington, DC, and 99999 if plaintiff is outside the United States.
- III.** CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES: This section is completed only if diversity of citizenship was selected as the Basis of Jurisdiction under Section II.
- IV.** CASE ASSIGNMENT AND NATURE OF SUIT: The assignment of a judge to your case will depend on the category you select that best represents the primary cause of action found in your complaint. You may select only one category. You must also select one corresponding nature of suit found under the category of the case.
- VI.** CAUSE OF ACTION: Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of the primary cause.
- VIII.** RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY: If you indicated that there is a related case, you must complete a related case form, which may be obtained from the Clerk’s Office.

Because of the need for accurate and complete information, you should ensure the accuracy of the information provided prior to signing the form.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**CLEAR FORM**

Heritage Foundation & Mike Howell

*Plaintiff*

v.

Department of Justice

*Defendant*

Civil Action No. 23-cv-327

**SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION**

To: *(Defendant's name and address)*

Hon. Merrick Garland  
Attorney General of the United States  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 30 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Samuel Everett Dewey  
Chambers of Samuel Everett Dewey, LLC  
2200 12th Court North No. 609  
Arlington, VA 22201

If you fail to respond, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

*ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk*

Civil Action No. 23-cv-327

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

*(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))*

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* \_\_\_\_\_  
was received by me on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,  
on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* \_\_\_\_\_, who is  
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because \_\_\_\_\_; or

Other *(specify)*: \_\_\_\_\_.

My fees are \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for travel and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for services, for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 0.00 \_\_\_\_\_.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

**Print**

**Save As...**

**Reset**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**CLEAR FORM**

Heritage Foundation & Mike Howell

*Plaintiff*

v.

Department of Justice

*Defendant*

Civil Action No. 23-cv-327

**SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION**

To: *(Defendant's name and address)*  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 30 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Samuel Everett Dewey  
Chambers of Samuel Everett Dewey, LLC  
2200 12th Court North No. 609  
Arlington, VA 22201

If you fail to respond, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

*ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk*

Civil Action No. 23-cv-327

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

*(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))*

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* \_\_\_\_\_  
was received by me on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_ .

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_ ; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,  
on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_ , and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* \_\_\_\_\_ , who is  
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_ ; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because \_\_\_\_\_ ; or

Other *(specify)*: \_\_\_\_\_ .

My fees are \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for travel and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for services, for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 0.00 .

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**CLEAR FORM**

Heritage Foundation & Mike Howell

*Plaintiff*

v.

Department of Justice

*Defendant*

Civil Action No. 23-cv-327

**SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION**

To: *(Defendant's name and address)*

Civil Process Clerk  
U.S. Attorney's Office for D.C.  
601 D Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 30 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Samuel Everett Dewey  
Chambers of Samuel Everett Dewey, LLC  
2200 12th Court North No. 609  
Arlington, VA 22201

If you fail to respond, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

*ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk*



Civil Action No. 23-cv-327

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

*(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))*

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* \_\_\_\_\_  
was received by me on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_ .

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_ ; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,  
on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_ , and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* \_\_\_\_\_ , who is  
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_ ; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because \_\_\_\_\_ ; or

Other *(specify)*: \_\_\_\_\_ .

My fees are \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for travel and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for services, for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 0.00 \_\_\_\_\_ .

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

**Print**

**Save As...**

**Reset**

# **EXHIBIT 1**



214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
(202) 546-4400  
heritage.org

**SENT VIA: <https://efoia.fbi.gov>**

September 13, 2022

Michael G. Seidel, Section Chief  
Record/Information Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
200 Constitution Drive  
Winchester, VA 22602

Dear FOIA Officer,

The official website of the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicates that there are “more than 830 special agents” assigned to the Washington Field Office.<sup>1</sup>

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the implementing FOIA regulations of the Department of Justice (“DOJ”), 28 CFR Part 16, I respectfully request the following:

- 1) Records sufficient to establish the total number of labor hours validated in WebTA by Federal Bureau of Investigation special agents assigned to the Washington Field Office from May 31, 2020 to August 31, 2020.
- 2) Records sufficient to establish the total number of labor hours validated in WebTA by Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington Field Office special agents from May 31, 2020 to August 31, 2020 attributed to investigations of any and all matters related to left wing domestic terrorism to include “violent, extremist agendas—anarchists like Antifa and other agitators”<sup>2</sup> arising from the summer 2020 riots.

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<sup>1</sup> FBI.gov. (Accessed: 2022, August 12). FBI Washington Field Office. <https://www.fbi.gov/history/field-office-histories/washingtondc>

<sup>2</sup> FBI.gov. (Accessed: 2022, August 12). <https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/press-releases/fbi-director-christopher-wraps-remarks-at-press-conference-regarding-civil-unrest-in-wake-of-george-floyds-death>



214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

(202) 546-4400  
heritage.org

The terms “pertaining to,” “referring,” “relating,” or “concerning” with respect to any given subject means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with, or is in any manner whatsoever pertinent to that subject.

The term “record” means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, inter-office and intra-office communications, electronic mail (emails), MMS or SMS text messages, instant messages, messaging systems (such as iMessage, Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal, Google Chat, Twitter direct messages, Lync, Slack, and Facebook Messenger), contracts, cables, telexes, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, voicemail, meeting or other communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electronic records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape or otherwise.

The terms “and” and “or” should be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The terms “all,” “any,” and “each” should each be construed as encompassing any and all. The singular includes the plural number, and vice versa. The present tense includes the past and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neuter genders.

The term “communication” means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information (in the form of facts, ideas, inquiries, or otherwise), regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether in an in-person meeting, by telephone, facsimile, e-mail (desktop or mobile device), text message, MMS or SMS message, messaging systems (such as iMessage, Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal, Google Chat, Twitter direct messages, Lync, Slack, and Facebook Messenger), regular mail, telexes, releases, or otherwise.

“Communications with,” “communications from,” and “communications between” means any communication involving the related parties, regardless of whether other persons were



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Washington, DC 20002  
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heritage.org

involved in the communication, and includes, but is not limited to, communications where one party is cc'd or bcc'd, both parties are cc'd or bcc'd, or some combination thereof.

Please consider all members of a document "family" to be responsive to the Request if any single "member" of that "family" is responsive, regardless of whether the "family member" in question is "parent" or "child."

In the interest of expediency and to minimize the research and/or duplication burden on your staff, please send records electronically if possible. If this is not possible, please notify me before sending to the mailing address listed below. If access to this request will take longer than twenty business days, please let me know when I might receive records or be able to inspect the requested records. Please produce responsive documents as soon as they become available. In all cases, please communicate with me at the below email address.

Please comply fully with 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Accordingly, without limitation to the foregoing, if any portion of this request is denied for any reason, please provide written notice of the records or portions of records that are being withheld and cite each specific exemption of the Freedom of Information Act on which the agency relies. Moreover, to the extent that responsive records may be withheld in part produce all reasonably segregable portions of those records. Additionally, please provide all responsive documents even if they are redacted in full.

### **Fee Waiver Request**

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Heritage Foundation does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in Heritage Foundation's commercial interest. Heritage Foundation's mission is to formulate and promote public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense. Heritage Foundation uses the information requested and analyzes it in order to educate the public through social media,<sup>3</sup> broadcast media<sup>4</sup> (traditional and nontraditional) and press releases.<sup>5</sup> The requested information is in the public interest as this is an issue of national controversy which has been covered extensively by national broadcast media and national print media. Specifically, according to Rasmussen Reports, as of August 2022, a majority of United

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<sup>3</sup> Heritage Foundation. [@ Heritage] (Accessed: 2022, February 18). 626.8K Followers Twitter. <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

<sup>4</sup> Fox News. (Accessed: 2022, February 18). Heritage Foundation launches Conservative Oversight Project aimed at 'exposing' Biden admin, leftist policies. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/heritage-conservative-oversight-project-biden-admin-leftist-policies>

<sup>5</sup> Heritage Foundation. (Accessed: 2022, February 18). Press. <https://www.heritage.org/press> .



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States voters believe that the DOJ/FBI is politicized.<sup>6</sup> The purpose of this Freedom of Information Act request is to examine this controversial belief.

Because this is a request by a member of the news media for information of public interest, made in my capacity as an author for the Daily Signal<sup>7</sup> (a major news outlet<sup>8</sup>), I actively gather information of potential interest to our Daily Signal audience, and I use my editorial skills to turn raw materials into a distinct work, and I distribute that work to our Daily Signal audience through podcasts<sup>9</sup> or articles. I request that you waive all applicable fees associated with this request.

If you deny this request for a fee waiver, please advise me in advance of the estimated charges if they are to exceed \$50. Please send me a detailed and itemized explanation of those charges.

Thank you in advance for considering my request. If you have any questions, or feel you need clarification of this request please contact me at [oversightproject@heritage.org](mailto:oversightproject@heritage.org).

Sincerely,

Mike Howell  
Senior Advisor and Author at The Daily Signal  
The Heritage Foundation  
214 Massachusetts Ave, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20002

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<sup>6</sup>Rasmussen Reports. (Accessed 2022, August 12) Justice or Politics? Most Voters Think DOJ Now Politicized. [https://www.rasmussenreports.com/public\\_content/politics/biden\\_administration/justice\\_or\\_politics\\_most\\_voters\\_think\\_doj\\_now\\_politicized](https://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/biden_administration/justice_or_politics_most_voters_think_doj_now_politicized)

<sup>7</sup>Daily Signal. (Accessed: 2022, February 18). Mike Howell. <https://www.dailysignal.com/author/mike-howell/>

<sup>8</sup>Daily Signal. [@DailySignal] (Accessed: 2022, February 18). 73.7K Followers Twitter. <https://twitter.com/DailySignal>

<sup>9</sup>Apple. (Accessed: 2022, March 4). The Daily Signal Podcast. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-daily-signal-podcast/id1313611947>

# **EXHIBIT 2**



U.S. Department of Justice

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
Washington, D.C. 20535

September 27, 2022

MR. MIKE HOWELL  
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION  
214 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002

FOIPA Request No.: 1561288-000  
Subject: Records to Validate WebTA Hours  
of Special Agents Assigned to the  
Washington Field Office  
(May 31, 2020 – August 31, 2020)

Dear Mr. Howell:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request to the FBI. Below you will find check boxes and informational paragraphs about your request, as well as specific determinations required by these statutes. Please read each one carefully.

- Your request has been received at FBI Headquarters for processing.
- You submitted your request via the FBI's eFOIPA system.
- Future correspondence about your FOIPA request will be provided in an email link unless the record file type is not supported by the eFOIPA system.
- Correspondence for requests regarding living individuals, or containing audio, video, and high resolution photographs cannot be sent through the eFOIPA system. Future correspondence about your FOIPA request will be delivered through standard mail.
- The subject of your request is currently being processed and documents subject to the FOIPA will be released to you upon completion.
- Release of responsive records subject to the FOIPA will be posted to the FBI's electronic FOIA Library (The Vault), <http://vault.fbi.gov>, and you will be contacted when the release is posted.
- Your request for a public interest fee waiver is under consideration and you will be advised of the decision if fees are applicable. If your fee waiver is not granted, you will be responsible for applicable fees per your designated requester fee category below.
- For the purpose of assessing any fees, we have determined:
  - As a commercial use requester, you will be charged applicable search, review, and duplication fees in accordance with 5 USC § 552 (a)(4)(A)(ii)(I).
  - As an educational institution, noncommercial scientific institution or representative of the news media requester, you will be charged applicable duplication fees in accordance with 5 USC § 552 (a)(4)(A)(ii)(II).
  - As a general (all others) requester, you will be charged applicable search and duplication fees in accordance with 5 USC § 552 (a)(4)(A)(ii)(III).



Please check the status of your FOIPA request at [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) by clicking on **FOIPA Status** and entering your FOIPA Request Number. Status updates are adjusted weekly. The status of newly assigned requests may not be available until the next weekly update. If the FOIPA has been closed the notice will indicate that appropriate correspondence has been mailed to the address on file.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request.

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, 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 transmitted within ninety (90) 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." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by emailing the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison at [foipaquestions@fbi.gov](mailto:foipaquestions@fbi.gov). The subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Seidel  
Section Chief  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Information Management Division