



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

VIA EMAIL

(LW 2024-072)

May 30, 2024

The Honorable Ed Siskel
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Mr. Siskel:

In accordance with the requirements of the Presidential Records Act (PRA), as amended, 44 U.S.C. §§2201-2209, this letter constitutes a formal notice from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to the incumbent President of our intent to open Biden Vice Presidential records in response to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and the systematic processing project listed in Attachment A.

This material, consisting of 513 email messages, 22 electronic files, and 17 photographs, has been reviewed for the six PRA Presidential restrictive categories, including confidential communications requesting or submitting advice (P5) and material related to appointments to federal office (P2). These records were also reviewed for all applicable FOIA exemptions. As a result of this review, 306 email messages, and five electronic files in whole, and 102 email messages and 12 electronic files in part have been restricted. Therefore, NARA is proposing to open the remaining 105 email messages, five electronic files and 17 photographs in whole and 102 email messages and 12 electronic files in part that do not require closure under 44 U.S.C. § 2204. A copy of any records proposed for release under this notice will be provided to you upon your request.

We are also concurrently informing former Vice President Biden's representatives, Robert Lenhard, James Garland, and Dana Remus, and President Obama's representatives, Anita Breckenridge, Bob Bauer, and Emily Blakemore, of our intent to release these records. Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2208(a), NARA will release the records 60 working days from the date of this letter, which is August 26, 2024 unless the former President, former Vice President, or incumbent President requests a one-time extension of an additional 30 working days or if the former or incumbent President asserts a constitutionally based privilege, in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2208(b)-(d). Please let us know if you are able to complete your review before the expiration of the 60 working day period. Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2208(a)(1)(B), we will make this notice available to the public on the NARA website.

If you have any questions relating to this notification, please contact me at (202) 357-5091 or NARA General Counsel Gary M. Stern at (301) 837-3026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen Dillon McClure". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

KATHLEEN DILLON MCCLURE
DIRECTOR
Archival Operations Division

Enclosure

ATTACHMENT A

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Material Processed</u>	<u>Material Restricted</u>	<u>Material Proposed for Opening</u>
2022-0119-F[3]	Vice President Biden’s communications with Hunter Biden and James Biden	373 email messages	290 email messages closed in whole; 43 email messages closed in part	40 email messages in whole; 43 email messages in part

This researcher submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for material related to Vice President Biden’s communications with Hunter Biden and James Biden and narrowed their request to specific terms and email senders and recipients. The Biden Vice Presidential records to be opened include email messages from June 2012 to December 2015 sent and received by the Biden Office of the Vice President including communications with representatives of Rosemont Seneca, Seneca Global Advisors, and RSPDC. Topics include the White House visitor procedures, 2013 Cooperative Assistance and Relief Everywhere, Inc. (CARE) conference, and staff contact lists for the Office of the Vice President from 2014.

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Material Processed</u>	<u>Material Restricted</u>	<u>Material Proposed for Opening</u>
2022-0113-F[8]	Kimberly S. Hermann, Southeastern Legal Foundation	51 emails	14 emails in whole; 14 emails closed in part	23 emails in whole; 14 emails in part

This researcher submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for material related to Vice President Biden’s email addresses. The Biden Vice Presidential records to be opened are email messages from August 16, 2013 to January 27, 2014 that include communications to/from “robinware456@gmail.com” “JRBWare@gmail.com” and Robert.L.Peters@pci.gov. The Biden Vice Presidential records to be opened include weekly schedules and highlights, correspondence, a study of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, news articles, speech drafts, interview transcripts, call reminders and phone numbers, and foreign policy updates.

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Material Processed</u>	<u>Material Restricted</u>	<u>Material Proposed for Opening</u>
2023-0042-F[11]	Biden Family Connections	22 electronic files	5 electronic files in whole; 12 electronic files in part	5 electronic files in whole; 12 electronic files in part

This researcher submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for material related to Biden family communications, vice presidential schedules and all records regarding former Vice President Joseph R. Biden with specific individuals and entities. The Biden Vice Presidential records

to be opened include electronic files of Excel spreadsheets and Word processing documents saved within the OneDrive files of Anthony Bernal, Richard Ruffner, Amin Faisal, Greg Schultz and Jaimie Woo. The electronic files are dated March 2012 to March 2016 and document official and ceremonial events which occurred from 2009 to March 2016 involving the named individuals. These electronic files include mentions of Hunter Biden, Sara Biden and/or James Biden and mentions of Rosemont Seneca, Jeffrey Cooper, Catherine Dodge, Fran Person, Joan Peugh and Eric Schwerin.

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Material Processed</u>	<u>Material Restricted</u>	<u>Material Proposed for Opening</u>
2024-0053-S	Smokey the Cat	89 emails; 17 photographs	2 emails; 45 emails in part	42 emails, 17 photographs in whole; 45 emails in part

This is a systematic collection featuring records related to Smokey the cat, an outdoor cat who lived on the grounds of the Old Executive Office Building. The Biden Vice Presidential records to be opened are emails about Smokey the cat including an EOP newsletter featuring a Smokey spotlight, emails between staff speculating and ultimately confirming Smokey’s passing, reactions to said passing, and an article about a fox living at the White House that mentions Smokey. Photographs to be opened are of Smokey the cat on West Executive Avenue that were taken on November 9, 2010 and May 9, 2011 by Vice Presidential photographer David Leinemann.

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VIA EMAIL
(LW 2024-072)

May 30, 2024

Anita Breckenridge, Robert Bauer, and Emily Blakemore
Obama Foundation Office
1250 24th Street
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Ms. Breckenridge, Mr. Bauer, and Ms. Blakemore:

In accordance with the requirements of the Presidential Records Act (PRA), as amended, 44 U.S.C. §§2201-2209, this letter constitutes a formal notice from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to you, as former President Obama's representatives, of our intent to open Biden Vice Presidential records. These records were processed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and the systematic processing project described in Attachment A.

This material, consisting of 513 email messages, 22 electronic files, and 17 photographs, has been reviewed for the six PRA Presidential restrictive categories, including confidential communications requesting or submitting advice (P5) and material related to appointments to federal office (P2). These records were also reviewed for all applicable FOIA exemptions. As a result of this review, 306 email messages, and five electronic files in whole, and 102 email messages and 12 electronic files in part have been restricted. Therefore, NARA is proposing to open the remaining 105 email messages, five electronic files and 17 photographs in whole and 102 email messages and 12 electronic files in part that do not require closure under 44 U.S.C. § 2204. A copy of any records proposed for release under this notice will be provided to you upon your request.

We are also concurrently informing the incumbent President and former Vice President Biden's representatives, Robert Lenhard, James Garland, and Dana Remus, of our intent to release these records. Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2208(a), NARA will release the records 60 working days from the date of this letter, which is August 26, 2024, unless the former President, former Vice President, or incumbent President requests a one-time extension of an additional 30 working days or if the former or incumbent President asserts a constitutionally based privilege, in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2208(b)-(d). Please let us know if you are able to complete your review before the expiration of the 60 working day period. Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2208(a)(1)(B), we will make this notice available to the public on the NARA website.

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KATHLEEN DILLON MCCLURE
DIRECTOR
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VIA EMAIL

(LW 2024-072)

May 30, 2024

Robert Lenhard
One CityCenter
850 Tenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-4956

Dear Mr. Lenhard:

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