

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

P.O. BOX 750 · MADISON, WI 53701 · (608) 256-8900 · WWW.FFRF.ORG

March 5, 2026

SUBMITTED VIA ONLINE PORTAL: Request #DOI-2026-004377

Nicholas Banco, FOIA Officer
National Park Service
1849 C Street, Room 2214
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Rededicate 250 Freedom of Information Act Request

Mr. Banco:

We are writing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) to obtain public records from the National Park Service (“NPS”). We are requesting records pertaining to the NPS and the “Rededicate 250” event currently scheduled to take place on May 17, 2026, on the National Mall.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 and 43 C.F.R. § 2.3(b), we formally request the following records:

- 1) All permit applications and issued permits by NPS for the Rededicate 250 event to be held on the National Mall on or about May 17, 2026.
- 2) All NPS memoranda, schedules, and communications related to the Rededicate 250 event to be held on the National Mall on or about May 17, 2026.

In order to determine our status under FOIA for the purpose of assessing fees, please see the attached, certified statement of PJ Slinger, (Exh. A), which demonstrates that the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that publishes and disseminates its own newspaper, Freethought Today. We request a waiver of fees because of our nonprofit status and our work in disseminating information to the public regarding federal government actions and programs that may implicate their constitutional rights, especially their rights under the religion clauses of the First Amendment. Release of the requested records is in the public interest. The subject of the request is a matter of concern to FFRF members and the general public. The Freedom of Information Act provides for fees associated with records requests to be waived in whole or in part where “disclosure of the information [requested] is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the

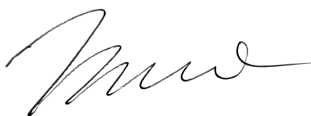
operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii); 43 C.F.R. §§ 2.45(a) and 2.48.

Communications and documents surrounding events in locations managed by the NPS and the federal government, concern identifiable activities of the government, and the requested information is currently not publicly available. Their disclosure will be meaningfully informative to a public understanding of the planning of these events. As an organization that focuses on state-church separation, FFRF has significant expertise in the area of government-sponsored worship events, and has media, website, and email distribution channels to disseminate this information to the general public. The disclosure of these documents will make public the planning process and rationale behind the Rededicate 250 event, substantially contributing to the public’s understanding of the event and the NPS’s related involvement.

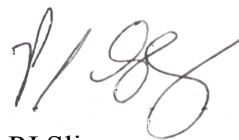
In addition, FFRF does not stand to benefit commercially from the disclosure of the requested records. As a nonprofit, FFRF’s purpose for obtaining the records is to inform the public, not utilize them for sale. The requested records will assist the public in understanding how officials in the federal government are using (or misusing) federal resources for attending, organizing, or promoting a religious event.

Finally, FFRF is asking for expedited processing of this request because the Rededicate 250 is scheduled to take place soon, on May 17, 2026. As explained above and in the attached, certified statement of P.J. Slinger, 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(vi), 43 C.F.R. § 2.20(b), FFRF has a “compelling need” for expedited processing of this request because FFRF is “primarily engaged in disseminating information,” and this fast-approaching date presents an “urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity” related to the event. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(I), (II); 43 C.F.R. § 2.20(a)(2)(ii) and (iii). If any of these records are available through electronic media, they may be e-mailed to records@ffrf.org. If we can provide any clarification that will help expedite your attention to this request, please contact Attorney Nancy Noet at noetn@ffrf.org.

Sincerely,



Nancy A. Noet
Litigation Attorney



PJ Slinger
Editor, Freethought Today