

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

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

May 13, 2026

SUBMITTED VIA ONLINE PORTAL

Lance Purvis
Office of the Solicitor
MS-6540, MIB
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Freedom 250 Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Mr. Purvis:

We are writing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (“FFRF”) to obtain public records from the Department of Interior (“Department”). We are requesting records pertaining to the Department and Freedom 250.

For the purposes of this request “Freedom 250” refers to Freedom 250 LLC as well as any project, organization, or activity under the National Park Foundation that utilizes the name “Freedom 250.”

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 Department agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other documents relating to Department contracts with Freedom 250.
- 2) All records of payments made by the Department to Freedom 250.
- 3) All Department communications to or from Freedom 250 employees or agents relating to Freedom 250 events or activities that include religious worship or prayer, including the following events and activities:
 - a) Rededicate 250: A National Jubilee of Prayer, Praise & Thanksgiving
 - b) America Prays

In order to determine our status under FOIA for the purpose of assessing fees, please see the attached, certified statement of Amit Pal, (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 Freedom 250 agreements and expenditures by the Department, 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 and taxpayer expense of these events. As an organization that focuses on state-church separation, FFRF has significant expertise in the area of government-sponsored worship events (which appear to be funded in part by Freedom 250 and thus the Department), 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 agreements and funding for Freedom 250 events, substantially contributing to the public’s understanding of the events and the Department’s related involvement.

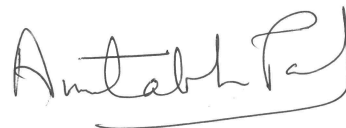
In addition, FFRF does not stand to benefit commercially from the disclosure of the requested records. As a nonprofit, FFRF’s purpose for obtaining the records is to inform the public, not utilize them for sale. The requested records will assist the public in understanding how officials in the federal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

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 Patrick Elliott at [**records@ffrf.org**](mailto:records@ffrf.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick Elliott".

Patrick C. Elliott
Legal Director

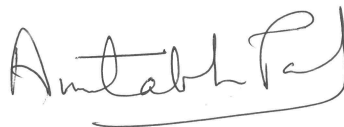
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amit Pal".

Amit Pal
Communications Director

Certified Statement of Amit Pal

- (1) I am an employee of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (“FFRF”), which is a non-profit, tax-exempt, educational organization under Internal Revenue Code 501 (c)(3). The purpose of FFRF is to promote the constitutional separation of state and church, and to educate the public on matters relating to nontheism.
- (2) I am the Communications Director for FFRF.
- (3) FFRF has several channels of communication, which can reach millions of citizens, including:
- A newspaper, Freethought Today, that FFRF regularly publishes and disseminates nationwide.
 - Directly to our more than 40,000 members, including through FFRF’s newspaper, Freethought Today.
 - Directly to FFRF’s approximately 500,000 social media followers.
 - Via news releases to a broad network of media contacts.
 - Via FFRF’s regular radio show, Freethought Radio, which airs in Wisconsin and about a dozen other states.
 - And via FFRF’s YouTube show, Secular Spotlight, which airs almost every week.
- (4) FFRF provides nonprofit education and advocacy to the public, promoting freethought and seeking to keep religion out of United States laws and social policy. FFRF disseminates 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.
- (5) The records that FFRF has requested regarding Freedom 250 are likely to provide information that FFRF intends to publish to assist its members and the public in understanding how officials in the federal government are using (or misusing) federal resources for funding, organizing, or promoting religious events. It is critical that this information be made available to permit concerned citizens to take appropriate action, including communication with their elected representatives, about the possible misuse of federal resources.

I certify to the best of knowledge that the information in this statement is true and accurate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amit Pal", with a horizontal line underneath.

Amit Pal
Communications Director