February 18, 2022

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20514

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

I write in response to your letter of February 9, 2022, in which you asked a number of questions relating to “the 15 boxes of presidential records that the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) recently recovered from former President Trump’s Mar-a-Lago residence.” Please see our responses to each of your questions:

1. Did NARA ask the representatives of former President Trump about missing records prior to the 15 boxes being identified? If so, what information was provided in response?

   Answer: NARA had ongoing communications with the representatives of former President Trump throughout 2021, which resulted in the transfer of 15 boxes to NARA in January 2022.

2. Has NARA conducted an inventory of the contents of the boxes recovered from Mar-a-Lago?

   Answer: NARA is in the process of inventorying the contents of the boxes.

3. Please provide a detailed description of the contents of the recovered boxes, including any inventory prepared by NARA of the contents of the boxes. If an inventory has not yet been completed, please provide an estimate of when such an inventory will be completed.

   Answer: NARA staff are in the process of inventorying the contents of the boxes, which we expect to complete by February 25. Because the records in the boxes are subject to the Presidential Records Act (PRA), any request for information regarding the content of the records will need to be made in accordance with section 2205(2)(C) of the PRA.
4. Are the contents of the boxes of records recovered by NARA undergoing a review to
determine if they contain classified information? If so, who is conducting that review
and has any classified information been found?

Answer: NARA has identified items marked as classified national security
information within the boxes.

5. Is NARA aware of any additional presidential records from the Trump Administration
that may be missing or not yet in NARA’s possession?

Answer: NARA has identified certain social media records that were not captured
and preserved by the Trump Administration. NARA has also learned that some
White House staff conducted official business using non-official electronic
messaging accounts that were not copied or forwarded into their official
electronic messaging accounts, as required by section 2209 of the PRA. NARA
has already obtained or is in the process of obtaining some of those records.

6. What efforts has NARA taken, and is NARA taking, to ensure that any additional
records that have not been turned over to NARA are not lost or destroyed?

Answer: NARA has asked the representatives of former President Trump to
continue to search for any additional Presidential records that have not been
transferred to NARA, as required by the Presidential Records Act.

7. Has the Archivist notified the Attorney General that former President Trump removed
presidential records from the White House? If not, why not?

Answer: Because NARA identified classified information in the boxes, NARA staff
has been in communication with the Department of Justice.

8. Is NARA aware of presidential records that President Trump destroyed or attempted
to destroy without the approval of NARA? If so, please provide a detailed description of
such records, the actions taken by President Trump to destroy or attempt to destroy
them, and any actions NARA has taken to recover or preserve these documents.

Answer: In June 2018, NARA learned from a press report in Politico that textual
Presidential records were being torn up by former President Trump and that
White House staff were attempting to tape them back together. NARA sent a
letter to the Deputy Counsel to the President asking for information about the
extent of the problem and how it is being addressed. The White House Counsel’s
Office indicated that they would address the matter. After the end of the Trump
Administration, NARA learned that additional paper records that had been torn
up by former President Trump were included in the records transferred to us.
Although White House staff during the Trump Administration recovered and
taped together some of the torn-up records, a number of other torn-up records that were transferred had not been reconstructed by the White House.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

DAVID S. FERRIERO  
Archivist of the United States

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Ranking Member