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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

FROM: THE ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES

SUBJECT: Continued Postponement of Records in the President John F. Kennedy
Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (JFK Act)

The purpose of this memorandum is to request continued postponement beyond October 26, 2017, of the social security numbers of living persons that are contained in 211 documents from the records of House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) that were included in the JFK Assassination Records Collection (Collection). Pursuant to section 5(g)(2)(D) of the JFK Act, continued postponement of these social security numbers is necessary because of "an identifiable harm to . . . law enforcement, . . . and the identifiable harm is of such gravity that it outweighs the public interest in disclosure." (A list of the 211 documents, with the associated "record identification form" (RIF) number, is attached.)

The HSCA investigated the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King from 1977-79. The JFK Act included in the definition of "Assassination record" any record "related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, that was created or made available for use by, obtained by, or otherwise came into the possession of" the HSCA. Section 3(2)(E), codified at 44 U.S.C. § 2107 note. Among the HSCA records in the Collection are personnel and payroll records of the HSCA staff, which include their social security numbers (SSN). The Assassination Records Review Board released these records during its tenure (1994-1998), and only withheld the SSNs pursuant to Section 6(3).

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I believe that release of social security numbers of living persons would cause an identifiable harm to law enforcement by increasing the possibility of identity theft and related crimes, which would necessitate a law enforcement response. Moreover, there is no discernable public interest that would outweigh the grave harm that could result from such disclosure. The General Counsel to the House of Representatives supports our request for continued postponement of these SSNs. I note that earlier this month, the President signed into law the Social Security Number Fraud Prevention Act of 2017, Pub. L. 115-59, which serves to limit the transmission of SSNs by agencies through the mail and requires "the partial redaction of social security account numbers where feasible."

I also recommend that the postponement of each of these records should extend until either the death of the individual, or 75 years from the conclusion of the HSCA investigation (2054), whichever occurs first.

If your staff has questions regarding this request, please contact William J. Bosanko, Chief Operating Officer, at 301-837-3604 or william.bosanko@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. Ferriero". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "F".

DAVID S. FERRIERO
Archivist of the United States

Enclosure: List of HSCA Documents Containing SSNs