

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 18, 2024

## VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Mr. Thomas A. Knights  
Agency Open Records Officer  
Butler Township

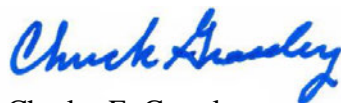
Dear Mr Knights:

On July 13, 2024, a gunman opened fire attempting to assassinate former President Trump as he spoke to his supporters at an event in Butler, Pennsylvania. This tragic attack resulted in one person killed, and two others critically injured.<sup>1</sup> I am keeping the innocent victims and their loved ones, along with the rest of your community, in my prayers. I am grateful to those in law enforcement and in the crowd who responded to help injured bystanders and protect former President Trump.

On July 17, 2024, I launched a congressional investigation into the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Secret Service following the attempted assassination of former President Trump.<sup>2</sup> According to reports, local law enforcement officers at the event identified the shooter as a suspicious person and notified the United States Secret Service prior to the gunman opening fire.<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Act 22 of 2017, I write to you requesting video and audio recordings in the possession of your law enforcement agency from the July 13, 2024, event held at the Butler County Farm Show grounds in Butler, Pennsylvania made before, during, and in the aftermath of the event.<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to the Right-to-Know Law, I request records, including but not limited to post and security assignments, perimeter assignments individual responsibilities, delegations of authority, cooperative agreements between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, security planning, advance security inspections, and similar records related to the July 13, 2024, event held at the Butler County Farm Show grounds in Butler, Pennsylvania.<sup>5</sup> I'm requesting these recordings and documents as part of my ongoing investigation.<sup>6</sup>

Thank you for your prompt review and response to this request. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Randolph and Silvia Symber on my Committee staff at (202) 224-0642.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget

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<sup>1</sup> Sarah Rumpf-Whitten, Brooke Singman, and Lucas Y. Tomlinson, *Assassination attempt on Trump at Pennsylvania rally leaves 2 hurt, 2 dead, including shooter*, Fox News (Jul. 13, 2024) <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/assassination-attempt-trump-pennsylvania-rally-2-hurt-2-dead-including-shooter>.

<sup>2</sup> See *Grassley Launches Secret Service Investigation Following Assassination Attempt Against Former President Trump*, (Jul. 17, 2024) <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-launches-secret-service-investigation-following-assassination-attempt-against-former-president-trump>.

<sup>3</sup> Dan Mangan, *Trump shooting: Secret Service changes story on local SWAT team position*, NBC News (Jul. 17, 2024) <https://www.cnbc.com/2024/07/17/trump-shooting-secret-service-swat.html>; Michael Dorgan, *Secret Service director backtracks as feds, local law enforcement point fingers over Trump rally security*, Fox News (Jul. 17, 2024) <https://www.foxnews.com/us/secret-service-director-backtracks-feds-local-law-enforcement-point-fingers-over-trump-rally-security>.

<sup>4</sup> 2017 Act 22 (Jul. 7, 2017) <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2017&sessInd=0&act=22>; see also *Office of Open Records, REQUESTING POLICE RECORDINGS*, <https://www.openrecords.pa.gov/RTKL/PoliceRecordings.cfm>; Chris Potter, *Donald Trump to hold rally in Butler, Pa. ahead of 2024 election*, WESA (Jul. 12, 2024) <https://www.wesa.fm/politics-government/2024-07-12/donald-trump-butler-pa-rally>.

<sup>5</sup> See *Right-to-Know Law*, (Feb. 14, 2008) <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/US/HTM/2008/0/0003..HTM>.

<sup>6</sup> See *Grassley Launches Secret Service Investigation Following Assassination Attempt Against Former President Trump*, (Jul. 17, 2024) <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-launches-secret-service-investigation-following-assassination-attempt-against-former-president-trump>.