



Archivist of the
United States

August 16, 2022

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6143
By Email

Dear Ranking Member Comer:

I write in response to the letter of August 10, 2022, from you and your colleagues asking about “NARA’s role, if any, in the FBI raid.”

As a general matter, the Presidential Records Act (PRA) mandates that all Presidential records must be properly preserved by each Administration so that a complete set of Presidential records is transferred to the National Archives at the end of the Administration. As former Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero stated in a press statement on February 7, 2022, “NARA pursues the return of records whenever we learn that records have been improperly removed or have not been appropriately transferred to official accounts.” NARA also explained that, in mid-January 2022, “NARA arranged for the transport from the Trump Mar-a-Lago property in Florida to the National Archives of 15 boxes that contained Presidential records, following discussions with President Trump’s representatives in 2021.”

When NARA identified items marked as classified national security information within the 15 boxes, NARA referred this issue to the Department of Justice (DOJ). Since that time, DOJ has been exclusively responsible for all aspects of this investigation, and NARA has not been involved in the DOJ investigation or any searches that it has conducted. Accordingly, NARA is unable to provide a briefing or any documents in response to your letter, and we refer you to the DOJ. Please note, however, that NARA is preserving all records related to this matter.

Sincerely,

Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform