

Freedom of Information Act Request – Customs and Border Protection use of force in the fatal shooting of Alex Pretti (Jan. 24, 2026)

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request all records related to the fatal shooting of Alex Jeffrey Pretti in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 24, 2026, by personnel of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Records requested:

- Use-of-Force Reports concerning the Pretti shooting, including narrative accounts, witness statements, timelines, and internal assessments.
- Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Logs/Metadata collected by CBP personnel present during the incident (video itself not required at this stage).
- After-Action Reports prepared by CBP supervisors or units involved in the operation.
- Internal Communications (emails, directives, messages) among CBP field offices and headquarters regarding the incident and follow-up.
- Internal Reviews of compliance with CBP use-of-force policy and any associated policy or training evaluations triggered by the incident.

Time frame: January 1, 2026 – present.

Fee Waiver Request – 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) I request a waiver of all search, review, and duplication fees.

Disclosure of the requested records is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities, and the request is not made for any commercial purpose.

True Signal Media qualifies as a representative of the news media under FOIA.

Representative of the News Media True Signal Media (TSM) is an independent investigative journalism organization engaged in systematic accountability reporting on federal agencies.

TSM publishes original reporting, analysis, and primary-source documentation on government transparency, law enforcement activity, and institutional oversight at truesignalmedia.news.

Multiple federal agencies have already recognized TSM's status as a representative of the news media and granted media fee treatment, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, Department of Education, and U.S. Secret Service.

These determinations confirm TSM's qualification under FOIA and DOJ guidance.

TSM operates professional journalism infrastructure, including:

- Regular publication of investigative and accountability reporting
- Defined editorial sections and bylines
- Ongoing multi-agency investigations supported by primary documents
- Public dissemination of records and findings for transparency purposes Public Interest and Contribution to Public Understanding

The requested records concern federal government operations, enforcement activity, and decision-making that directly affect the public. Disclosure will shed light on how the agency carries out its statutory responsibilities, applies policy in practice, and exercises authority.

Release of these records will contribute significantly to public understanding by:

- Documenting how federal actions are conducted, justified, and reviewed
- Allowing comparison between stated policy and actual agency conduct
- Identifying systemic practices, gaps, or failures in oversight
- Informing public discourse, journalism, and accountability reporting

The request does not concern a private dispute or personal matter. It addresses matters of public concern involving government authority and transparency.

Ability and Intent to Disseminate True Signal Media has the demonstrated ability and clear intent to disseminate the information obtained through this request to the public.

Records will be analyzed and published through investigative reporting, explanatory journalism, and direct access to source documents.

TSM's reporting is distributed through its website and public channels and is intended to inform audiences concerned with government accountability, civil liberties, and institutional transparency.

No Commercial Interest This request is made solely for journalistic and public-interest purposes. True Signal Media does not seek the requested records for commercial use, resale, or private gain.

Any information obtained will be used exclusively for public accountability reporting.

Statutory Standard Met Both prongs of the fee waiver standard under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A) (iii) are satisfied:

1. Disclosure is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations; and
2. Disclosure is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

Accordingly, a full waiver of fees is warranted. If any fees are assessed notwithstanding this request, I agree to pay fees up to \$25 without prior notice. Please contact me before incurring any costs above this amount.

REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E) Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II), True Signal Media requests expedited processing of this request.

The statutory standard is met because the requester is primarily engaged in disseminating information, and there exists an urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged federal government activity.

A. True Signal Media Is Primarily Engaged in Disseminating Information True Signal Media (TSM) is an independent investigative journalism organization engaged in systematic accountability reporting on federal government operations, law enforcement activity, and institutional oversight. TSM publishes original reporting, analysis, and primary-source documentation at truesignalmedia.news.

TSM operates professional journalism infrastructure, including: • Continuous publication of investigative and accountability reporting • Defined editorial sections, bylines, and editorial standards • Ongoing multi-agency investigations supported by primary records • Public dissemination of findings and source documents for transparency Multiple federal agencies

have already recognized TSM as a representative of the news media and granted media fee treatment, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, Department of Education, and U.S. Secret Service. These determinations confirm that TSM is an entity primarily engaged in disseminating information within the meaning of FOIA and DOJ guidance.

B. Urgency to Inform the Public Concerning Federal Government Activity The requested records concern actual federal government activity that is the subject of ongoing public interest, public debate, and active scrutiny. The urgency does not arise from speculation or historical curiosity, but from the need to inform the public about government actions while they are occurring or remain subject to oversight. Federal enforcement actions, agency decision-making, inter-agency coordination, and compliance with statutory obligations are matters that require timely disclosure to ensure meaningful public understanding. When disclosure is delayed for standard processing timelines, the public's ability to evaluate government conduct during active periods of accountability is effectively lost.

C. Time Sensitivity Inherent to Accountability Journalism Investigative journalism operates within real-time accountability windows. Standard FOIA processing estimates of six to nine months routinely extend beyond:

- Active oversight and review periods
- Policy deliberations and enforcement phases
- Ongoing public discourse regarding federal conduct
- The practical ability of the press to inform the public contemporaneously

Delayed disclosure defeats FOIA's purpose where records document government activity that continues to affect public understanding, institutional trust, or civil liberties. The public interest is strongest while government actions are ongoing or recently undertaken, not after scrutiny has passed.

D. Immediate Dissemination and Public Impact Upon receipt of responsive records, True Signal Media will promptly analyze and disseminate the information through investigative reporting, contextual analysis, and publication of source documentation. TSM's purpose in seeking these records is to inform the public about how federal authority is exercised in practice, not months after the fact when accountability mechanisms have closed. TSM's infrastructure exists specifically to disseminate information concerning government conduct to the public in a timely, accessible, and documented manner.

E. Statutory Standard Satisfied True Signal Media satisfies both elements required for expedited processing under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II):

1. Primarily engaged in disseminating information: Established through ongoing investigative publication and prior federal agency determinations.
2. Urgency to inform the public concerning actual federal government activity: The requested records concern government actions that remain subject to public scrutiny and oversight, where delay would materially impair public understanding.

Expedited processing is not discretionary convenience. It is a statutory safeguard intended to prevent delay from undermining FOIA's core transparency purpose when journalists seek records about government activity demanding timely public scrutiny. Accordingly, True Signal Media requests expedited processing of this request as required by law.