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Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request

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Cc: "Michael Ayele (W)" <waacl13@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 12, 2025 at 5:20 PM

W (AACL) Date.: June 13th 2025
Michael A. Ayele
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Request for Records

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Hello,

This is Michael A. Ayele sending this message though I now go by W and I prefer to be referred to as such. I am writing this letter for the purpose of filing a request for records with your office.^[i] The bases for this records request are [1] the decision of the United States government to commemorate the month of June as “*Gun Violence Awareness Month*,”^[ii] [2] the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) processing of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, which was assigned Case No.: 1531505 – 000 and [3] the April 17th 2025 mass-shooting perpetrated by racist Phoenix Ikner on the campus of Florida State University.^[iii]

Please find attached to this email the content of my records request as well as information explaining my request for a fee waiver and expedited processing. Thank you.

Be well. Stay well. Take care. Keep yourselves at arms distance.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

Work Cited

[i] Please be advised that I have previously disseminated a vast number of documents obtained through records request using the means of various digital publishing platforms. As a representative of the media, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the records you disclose to me could be made available to the general public at no financial expense to them. This records request is being filed for non-commercial purposes to inform members of the general public / representatives

of the media [who may be interested in the written content of Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W – Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL)] about the activities, the engagements and the priorities of the U.S government at the local, state and federal level.

[ii] *On January 21st 2013, Hadiya Pendleton marched in President Obama’s second inaugural parade. One week later, Hadiya was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago. Soon after this tragedy, Hadiya’s friends commemorated her life by wearing orange, the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others.*

Wear Orange honors Hadiya and the 125 people shot and killed every day in the United states, along with the hundreds more who are wounded and the countless others whose lives have been changed by gun violence. Wear Orange.: <https://wearorange.org/>

Gun Violence Awareness Month provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations to raise public awareness about gun violence and is a call to action on educating communities on how to prevent it. District of Columbia Government (DC.Gov) Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants.: <https://ovsjg.dc.gov/page/june-gun-violence-awareness-month>

[iii] *Alleged Florida State University shooter Phenix Ikner touted vile “white supremacist” views, according to his classmates – including that “Rosa Parks was in the wrong” and that Black people were destroying his community. Ikner, who allegedly killed two people and wounded six others when he opened fire on campus Thursday, horrified other students with his “gross” racial rhetoric.*

One classmate from Ikner’s former school, Tallahassee State College, recalled how he was asked to leave a “political roundtable” club over his hate speech. “Basically our only rule was no Nazis – colloquially speaking – and he espoused so much white supremacist rhetoric, and far-right rhetoric as well, to the point where we had to exercise that rule,” Reid Seybold said.

Another classmate said Ikner was vocal in their federal politics class, promoting his disturbing views about Black people, as well as far-right conspiracy theories, such as that former President Joe Biden was fraudulently elected in 2020. His opinions were so troubling that the classmate, Lucas Luzietti, chillingly remembered thinking that “this man should not have access to firearms.” “I got into arguments with him in class over how gross the things he said were,” Lucas Luzietti said. “What are you supposed to do? His mother was a cop, and Florida doesn’t have very strong red flag laws,” Lucas Luzietti added.

Ikner, whose stepmother is a Leon County sheriff’s deputy, made it very clear that he had guns, classmates said. One of the firearms he allegedly used on Thursday, April 17th 2025 is believed to belong to his stepmother. “It’s so sad and so shocking,” Luzietti said of the shooting. “Then to see it was him – I’m sadly not surprised.” Ikner’s motive for the mass shooting is unknown. Suspected Florida State University shooter promoted “white supremacist” views, spewed racist vitriol against black people: report. New York Post.: <https://nypost.com/2025/04/18/us-news/fsu-shooter->

[phoenix-ikner-allegedly-promoted-white-supremacist-views-spewed-racist-vitriol-against-black-people-report/](#)

The April 17th 2025 fatal shooting on the Florida State University campus came the same day a symposium against gun violence was supposed to be held. The event organizer, whose daughter was shot and killed during Tallahassee's 2018 Hot Yoga shooting, now plans to reschedule the symposium for the fall.

Maura Blinkley was just 21 when she and Dr. Nancy Van Vesseem were killed at the Hot Yoga studio in Betton Place. Since then, Maura's father, Jeff Blinkley, has helped host a gun violence symposium at FSU called "Maura's Voice." This year, the event was set for April 17th. The same day a gunman killed two and injured six on campus. Blinkley is planning to reschedule the event for shortly after the start of the fall semester. (...) Cancelled by last month's FSU tragedy, the next "Maura's Voice" event will take place this fall. WFSU.: <https://news.wfsu.org/wfsu-local-news/2025-05-15/cancelled-by-last-months-fsu-tragedy-the-next-mauras-voice-event-will-take-place-this-fall>

Pursuant to the fundamental philosophy of the American constitutional form of government, it is declared to be the public policy of the State of Illinois that all persons are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts and policies of those who represent them as public officials and public employees consistent with the terms of this Act. Such access is necessary to enable the people to fulfill their duties of discussing public issues fully and freely, making informed political judgments and monitoring government to ensure that it is being conducted in the public interest.

The General Assembly hereby declares that it is the public policy of the State of Illinois that access by all persons to public records promotes the transparency and accountability of public bodies at all levels of government. It is a fundamental obligation of government to operate openly and provide public records as expediently and efficiently as possible in compliance with this Act. 5ILCS 140/1.: <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=85>

3 attachments

 **W (AACL) Re June 13th 2025 Records Request on Gun Violence Awareness Month After April 17th 2025.pdf**
4628K

 **FBI Correspondence With Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W.pdf**
1938K

 **Correspondence with Florida State University.pdf**
598K