



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

July 10, 2023

Anthony Gibson
Agency Records Officer
National Institutes of Health
6701 Rockledge Drive
Room 601 H
Rockville MD, 20892

Dear Anthony Gibson,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has recently become aware of an allegation of unauthorized disposition of National Institutes of Health (NIH) records. On June 29, 2023, the Chairman of the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic sent a letter to NIH alleging that David Morens, a Senior Scientific Advisor, used a personal email account in an apparent effort to evade the strictures of the Freedom of Information Act. The letter included an email from Mr. Morens stating that:

As you know, I try to always communicate on gmail because my NIH email is FOIA'd constantly. . . . Stuff sent to my gmail gets to my phone, but not my NIH computer. . . . Don't worry, just send to any of my addresses, and I will delete anything I don't want to see in the New York Times.

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230, NARA requests that the NIH investigate these allegations of unauthorized disposition of NIH email records. Please provide a comprehensive report within 30 days detailing NIH's findings. If an unauthorized disposition occurred, please ensure your report includes a complete description of the records involved, including volume and dates of the records, any salvage, recovery, or restoration efforts, and all safeguards that will be implemented to prevent the future unauthorized disposition of agency records.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me at Laurence.Brewer@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence V. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and a distinct 'V'.

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government

Enclosure

cc: Jacquelyn Smith-Simpson, Acting Department Records Officer
Cheryl Campbell, Assistant Secretary for Administration