

Disclosure Not in Conflict with Confidentiality/Privacy Protection

Adequate public disclosure and the protection of privacy and confidentiality are not mutually exclusive alternatives in an either/or policy decision on this matter. With respect to police materials on the Robert F. Kennedy assassination, both goals can be served simultaneously.

In the course of standard procedure over the past two decades, hundreds of thousands of pages of federal, state and local documents dealing with political assassinations have been released. This has been done via legally valid processes which uphold statutes regarding privacy and confidentiality, as well as public disclosure laws and appropriate policy concerns. (See letter of Mr. Henry Gwiazda of the John F. Kennedy Library to the Los Angeles Police Commission, describing how trained archivists process such materials as a matter of standard practice.)

What is requested of the Police Commission by responsible scholars, journalists, and citizens is not an indiscriminate or total release of files, but rather an orderly process of disclosure which protects privacy and confidentiality under guidelines similar to those used by various agencies including the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, in instances involving this and other cases. This process should be supervised or substantially assisted by impartial experts in archival or historical matters.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is currently processing 28,000 pages of documents on this case. Based on the Bureau's past releases, it should be expected that no more than approximately ten percent of the documents will be withheld by the Bureau while fully complying with applicable federal statutes and reasonable confidentiality/privacy safeguards.