

129-11

October 19, 1964

Mrs. R. E. Matson
[Redacted]

Dear Mrs. Matson:

I want to thank you for your recent letter about Officer M. E. McDonald of the Dallas Police Department. I think the Warren Commission Report clearly indicated that Officer McDonald acted bravely in disarming and arresting Lee Harvey Oswald.

I am sure it is a source of great pride to Officer McDonald that persons like yourself from across the nation have written to congratulate him on the manner in which he performed his duty on that tragic day.

Sincerely,

Jack Rosenthal
Director of
Public Information

JR/ys

cc: files

Section 5

To: Fred Holbern, The White House

From: Jack Rosenthal, Department of Justice

This letter, which you referred to me for appropriate handling, requests an award ~~and~~ or other commendation for the police officer who arrested Lee Harvey Oswald.

~~It is our opinion that,~~ In view of the recent Warren Commission report, which was critical of the Dallas police about several matters, ~~any~~ ^{I think} any commendation from the White House or this Department would be inappropriate at this time. *incongruous*

~~Jack okay?~~

Pat: I'm sorry - they don't want this back & they just want it out of their hair. Please draft a letter to her from someone here thanking & glad to know of her interest.

Pat

would you talk to Howard
Willens about this and draft
whatever is appropriate, for
his okay? Dnt,
Jack

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ROUTING SLIP

TO: <i>Mr. Tolson</i>	
<i>5/11/61</i>	

<input type="checkbox"/> READ	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION
<input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER	<input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED
<input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT RECORDED
<input type="checkbox"/> RECORDED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDEXED	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUR OFFICE MATTER
ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____		
PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____		

REMARKS:
It would be desirable to refer this matter to Mr. Tolson to see if any action is warranted. A letter of communication from the White House to the Chief of the Police Department may be prepared at this point. On this date, it is suggested to the Chief of the Police Department.

FROM: <i>W.C. Howard</i>	READING ROOM EXT. <i>2113</i>	DATE: <i>5/11/61</i>
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FROM
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Officials indicated below by check mark

		MEMORANDUM
Attorney General		
Deputy Attorney General		
First Assistant Deputy Attorney General		
Executive Office For U. S. Attorneys		
Executive Office For U. S. Marshals		
Solicitor General		
Executive Assistant to the Attorney General		
Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust		
Assistant Attorney General, Tax		
Assistant Attorney General, Civil		
Assistant Attorney General, Lands		
Assistant Attorney General, Criminal	X	Howard Willens
Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel		What should I do
Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security		with him?
Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights		
Administrative Assistant Attorney General		
Budget and Accounts Office		Jack
Records Administration Office		
Personnel Office		
Administrative Services Office		
Supplies and Printing Section		
Transcription Section		
Director, FBI		
Assistant to the Director - Room 5640		
Director of Prisons		
Director, Office of Alien Property		
Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization		
Pardon Attorney		
Parole Board		
Board of Immigration Appeals		
Librarian		

Howard Willens
What should I do
with him?

Jack

McDonald
Hawkins
Hutson
Walker
Bentley
Carroll

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

ROUTE SLIP

(To remain with correspondence)

Date: October 2, 1964

TO: ^{Jack} Mr. John Rosenthal, Special Assistant for Public Information, Department of Justice

Prompt handling is essential. Correspondence should be answered or other necessary action taken within 48 hours after arrival at the department or agency. If any delay is encountered, please telephone office of the undersigned.

Please handle the attached correspondence as indicated below:

- A. Reply on behalf of the President
- B. Draft for presidential signature
- C. Draft for undersigned's signature
- D. Other:
 - (1) For background briefing on which to base reply from this office
 - (2) For suitable acknowledgement or other appropriate handling X
 - (3) For your information
 - (4) For comment

Furnish this office with a copy of your reply. Yes X No

Return the original correspondence to this office. Yes No X

REMARKS:

By direction of the President:

Frederick L. Horn
Frederick L. Horn
Special Assistant in the
White House Office

Sept. 29-1965

Dear Mr. President.

I have read in the paper and
heard on T.V. the Warren report; so
now I wish you could do some
thing about Officer M. W. McDonald.

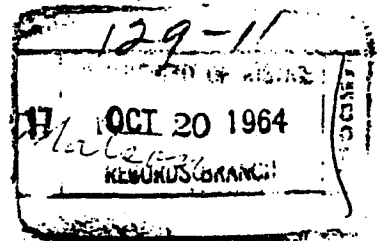
He doesn't ask for money just
an award of some kind. He risked
his own life to capture Oswald just
ninety minutes after he shot our
President. I hope that something
will be done about it now.

I am sending the letter that I
recieved from him.

I have always been a Republican
but this year my vote goes to
you.

Sincerely

Mrs. Rose E. [unclear]



Officer M. N. McDonald
530 Southport Drive
Dallas, Texas 75232

Mr. and Mrs. Roe E. Matson
[REDACTED]

April 22, 1964

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Matson:

I received your letter of April 16, 1964, and I appreciate your concern and interest that you have in my behalf.

I am sure that with your help and others like you, will cause some action from President Johnson to be taken in time.

I am proud to say that tomorrow night, April 23, 1964, the Dallas Citizens Traffic Commission, at their annual awards dinner, is honoring me with an award along the Police Department of the City of Dallas. The Police Department is awarding to me the Medal of Honor. This is the highest award ever given, and I shall be very honored and proud to receive this recognition from my own department. I thought that you would like to know of this honor to me.

Thank you again for your kind and thoughtful interest, I am

Sincerely yours,

Officer M. N. McDonald
Officer M. N. McDonald