



## George Bush Presidential Library

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### Inventory for FOIA Request 2000-1165-F

## Records on the Atlanta Child Murders

#### **Extent**

8 folders

#### **Access**

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Bush Presidential Records, Bush Vice Presidential Records, and Quayle Vice Presidential Records is governed by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)(5 USC 552 as amended) and the Presidential Records Act (PRA)(44 USC 22) and therefore records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

#### **Copyright**

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (Title 17, USC) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

#### **Provenance**

Official records of George Bush's presidency and vice presidency are housed at the George Bush Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

#### **Processed By**

Staff Archivists, November 2000. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

#### **Scope and Content**

The materials in FOIA 2000-1165-F are a selective, not necessarily all inclusive, body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials.

FOIA 2000-1165-F contains materials regarding Vice President George Bush's role as head of the Inter-Government Agency Task Force concerning the Atlanta Child Murders. Between mid-1979 and mid-1981 there were multiple slayings of black children and young adults in metropolitan Atlanta. The Atlanta Federal Task Force was created by Vice President George Bush upon the directive of newly elected

President Ronald Reagan. He coordinated the money, services, and professional support of federal agencies with the local and state efforts of officials, such as Atlanta's Mayor Maynard Jackson, Georgia Governor George Busbee, and others. This coordinated endeavor provided emotional and financial relief to the Atlanta community during this turbulent time.

White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) Subject File category FG600-02 contains reports, memoranda, correspondence, news clippings, press releases, chronologies, itineraries, and briefings.

The Staff and Office Files contain those of Mary Gall, Deputy Assistant for Domestic Policy, and Thad Garrett, Assistant to the Vice President on Domestic Policy. These files contain reports, memoranda, correspondence, news clippings, press releases, chronologies, itineraries, and briefings. Included in these materials is the "Report on Assistance to Atlanta for the Murdered and Missing Children Crisis" by the Atlanta Federal Task Force; "A Proposal for the Youth Development Program in Atlanta, Ga." by the Department of Labor's Comprehensive Employment and Training Administration (CETA); and "Background Information and Chronology of Activities on Missing/Murdered Children" by the Department of Public Safety. Memoranda address various meetings, reports, interviews, newspaper articles, and financial arrangements related to the abduction and murder of children in Atlanta. Correspondence includes letters of thanks to various members of the Task Force from Vice President Bush in addition to notes and letters to the Vice President from varied sources including agencies involved in providing assistance; United States senators expressing their anxiety and hope for federal action; and concerned citizens expressing thoughts and opinions about the situation. News clippings relate to the Atlanta child murders, the involvement of federal agencies in the investigation, and the Inter-Government Agency Task Force itself. Press releases include Vice President Bush's February 1981 statement regarding the Department of Justice's actions in the Atlanta investigation and the coordination of federal efforts to the city of Atlanta. Other press releases include the text of remarks by President Reagan in March 1981. Also found in these materials are numerous chronologies of the murders and the resulting actions from city, state, and federal entities. Itineraries of Admiral Daniel Murphy and Thaddeus Garrett, Jr.'s trip to Atlanta are also included. Informal briefings of telephone contacts, offers of assistance, and meetings discussing actions to be taken are part of this collection, as well as the formal "Missing & Murdered Children Briefing" from the Department of Public Safety and "Safe Summer '81 Financial Statement" from the City of Atlanta. There are also numerous inter-office memoranda, inter-agency correspondence, and staff briefings on murders and ensuing investigation. The correspondence and memoranda include documents from Charles Rinkevich, Admiral Daniel Murphy, Paul Coverdell, and Lee Brown, among others.

### **System of Arrangement**

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in two collection areas—Bush Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files and Bush Presidential Records: Staff and Office Files. As policy, WHORM Alphabetical Files and WHORM Subject Files are processed at the document level; whereas, Staff and Office Files are processed at the folder level, that is, individual documents are not selected and removed from a folder for processing. While this method maintains folder integrity, it frequently results in the incidental processing of documents that are not wholly responsive to the subject area.

The WHORM Subject File compiled by the White House Office of Records Management is comprised of a series of documents assigned a letter/number combination and filed in a subject category. A complete listing of the subject categories including a detailed description of each category is available in our research room and on our website at <http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu/research/find/whorm/whorm.html>.

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2000-1165-F.

### **Bush Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Case Number</b>
FG600-02*	Entire Category Relevant

## **Bush Presidential Records: Staff and Office Files**

### Office of Domestic Policy

#### Mary Gall Files—Trip File/Subject File

[Report on Assistance to Atlanta for the Murdered and Missing Children Crisis  
1981] [OA/ID 15258]

#### Thaddeus Garrett Files—Subject File

Atlanta Murders [1] [OA/ID 15267]

Atlanta Murders [2] [OA/ID 15267]

Atlanta Murders [3] [OA/ID 15267]

Atlanta Murders [4] [OA/ID 15267]

### Press Office

#### Press Office Files—Miscellaneous Files

Atlanta Murders [OA/ID 14933]

**Last modified:** 04/01/2008