

file D.C.

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July 29, 1999

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Deputy Assistant to the President
and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
Office of the First Lady
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Melanne:

Thanks for the call. We will be in touch promptly after the GSA award to reschedule the meeting.

Just short note on the central point that we want to make. Following on the First Lady's presentations to the Downtown Arts Coalition, we think that this an appropriate time to press for a downtown arts district. As a general matter, this would have great economic and cultural potential for the District. And more specifically, two of the cities great cultural entities – the Arena Stage and the Shakespeare Theatre – are both planning exciting new opportunities in the downtown. They would be leading the charge. And I'm confident that the creation of arts district would act as a powerful magnet for a whole variety of other arts institutions to go downtown.

It's that exciting opportunity that we wanted to talk with you about and to discuss how the White House could appropriately be involved in supporting the downtown initiative. This is the moment to get it done. The stars might not again be in alignment with the First Lady's interest in this project and the initiatives that are on the table.

I'll give you a call after Labor Day when the award is made and I'll rally our troops for a meeting soon thereafter.

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Have a great August. With the Congress gone and your sidekick either in the Adirondacks or on the Vineyard, I hope you and Phil have a chance to take a break.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J.F. Fitzpatrick', with a large loop at the end.

James F. Fitzpatrick

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October 30, 2000

To: Milan Verveer

From: Joan Zeldon

My friend at OMB tells me now is the time for you to call Sylvia Matthews and ask her to put the Courts on the President's end-game list.

The attached memo I sent to OMB was worked out between me and my contact there. If granted, the Courts still will be UNDER the Senate figures, but I was told this is the best we can hope for.

While the end-game list is our immediate priority, there also is something more you can do. Please call Grace Mastalli, Deputy Attorney General (514-4606) and ask her to make \$1,000,000 in grant money available to the Courts so that we can continue to computerize during FY2001 without having to stop. It is particularly important to computerize the Family Division which has become the subject of intense political interest by Tom Delay and others. This Division has never been computerized because we do not have the money.

THANK YOU in advance for all you have done to help the Courts.

D.C. Courts - End-game list

- I. There needs to be an additional \$1.578 for salaries and expenses of which \$1.278 is for the D.C. Superior Court and \$300,000 is for the D.C. Court of Appeals.

The Courts needed funds to fill 77 old vacancies left empty as a result of the fiscal crisis. The Conference Report figures enabled the Courts to fill only 29 old vacancies. The Courts now request the funds itemized above to enable the Superior Court to fill 20 more old vacancies and the Court of Appeals for fill 5 old vacancies.

II. Integrated Justice Information System

In the capital budget the Courts need \$1.951 to proceed with computerization without stopping due to lack of money during FY 2001. (This figure is less than originally requested because the Court received a grant for computerization of \$618,000.)