



**Homeland  
Security**

October 13, 2021

*Via electronic mail*

Reed Rubinstein  
America First Legal Foundation  
600 14<sup>th</sup> St NW  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: 2021-CRFO-00070

Dear Reed Rubinstein:

This letter is our interim responsive to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated July 22, 2021, addressed to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL), seeking, items A-X in the provided request letter.

The processing of your request identified certain materials that will be released to you. Portions not released are being withheld pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552. Please refer to the Applicable Exemptions list at the end of this letter that identifies the authority for withholding the exempt material, which is indicated by a mark appearing in the block next to the exemption. An additional enclosure with this letter explains these exemptions in more detail.

Please be advised, 98 pages which originated with other offices within DHS were referred to PRIV for processing and direct response to you. The contact information for PRIV's FOIA Office is as follows:

Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655  
Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. AVE SE  
Washington, DC 20528-065

Phone: 202-343-1743 or 866-431-0486 | Fax: 202-343-4011 | E-mail: [foia@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:foia@hq.dhs.gov)

#### Fees

There are no fees associated with processing this request because the fees incurred do not exceed the minimum threshold necessary for charge.

#### Administrative Appeal

You have a right to appeal the above withholding determination. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 90 days of the date of this letter, to: Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Attn: FOIA Appeals, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane, SW, Mail Stop 0190, Washington, D.C. 20528-0655, following the procedures outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations at 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.8. Your envelope and letter should be marked "FOIA Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and DHS FOIA regulations are available at [www.dhs.gov/foia](http://www.dhs.gov/foia).

Additionally, you have the right to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) which mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5796.

If you have any questions pertaining to your request, please feel free to contact our office at crclfoia@hq.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Rosemary Law  
CRCL FOIA Officer

Summary:

Number of Pages Released in Part or Full: 8

Number of Pages Withheld in Full: 9

Number of Pages Referred: 98

**APPLICABLE EXEMPTIONS  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

**Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552)**

(b)(1)  (b)(2)  (b)(3)  (b)(4)  (b)(5)  (b)(6)

(b)(7)(A)  (b)(7)(B)  (b)(7)(C)  (b)(7)(D)  (b)(7)(E)  (b)(7)(F)

Enclosures

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT  
SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

Exemptions

**Exemption (b)(1):** Records that contain information that is classified for national security purposes.

**Exemption (b)(2):** Records that are related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency.

**Exemption (b)(3):** Allows for the withholding of information prohibited from disclosure by another federal statute provided that one of two disjunctive requirements are met: the statute either "(A)(i) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or (A)(ii) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld."

**Exemption (b)(4):** Records that contain trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential.

**Exemption (b)(5):** Inter- or intra-agency records that are normally privileged in the civil discovery context. The three most frequently invoked privileges are the deliberative process privilege, the attorney work-product privilege, and the attorney-client privilege:

- Deliberative process privilege – Under the deliberative process privilege, disclosure of these records would injure the quality of future agency decisions by discouraging the open and frank policy discussions between subordinates and superiors.
- Attorney work-product privilege – Records prepared by or at the direction of a FinCEN attorney.
- Attorney-client privilege – Records of communications between an attorney and his/her client relating to a matter for which the client has sought legal advice, as well as facts divulged by client to attorney and any opinions given by attorney based on these.

**Exemption (b)(6):** Records that contain identifying information that applies to a particular individual when the disclosure of such information "would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." This requires the balancing of the public's right to disclosure against the individual's right to privacy.

**Exemption (b)(7)(A):** Records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that production of such law enforcement records or information...could reasonably be expected to interfere with law enforcement proceedings.

**Exemption (b)(7)(C):** Records containing law enforcement information when disclosure "could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy" based upon the traditional recognition of strong privacy interests ordinarily appropriated in law enforcement records.

**Exemption (b)(7)(E):** Records compiled for law enforcement purposes, the release of which would disclose techniques and/or procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law.