

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO: 7202.4-DOI-OS-2022-002891

March 31, 2022

Reed Rubinstein 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231 Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

The Office of the Secretary FOIA office received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated March 30, 2022, on March 30, 2022, and assigned it control number DOI-OS-2022-002891. Please cite this number in any future communications with our office regarding your request.

A. The Department's "Equity Action Plan," that was required by Section 7 of Executive Order 13985 (January 20, 2021) on "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government," to be submitted to the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget by January 20, 2022.

B. The Department's "Equity Assessment," that was required by Section 5 of Executive Order 13985 (January 20, 2021) on "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government," to be submitted to the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy by August 8, 2021.

Fee Category

We have classified you as an "other-use" requester. As such, we may charge you for some of our search and duplication costs, but we will not charge you for our review costs; you are also entitled to up to 2 hours of search time and 100 pages of photocopies (or an equivalent volume) for free. If, after taking into consideration your fee category entitlements, our processing costs are less than \$50.00, we will not bill you because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected. See 43 C.F.R. § 2.37(g).

Agreement to Pay

You have agreed to pay up to \$25.00 for the processing of your request. If we find that this will not cover the cost of processing your request, we will stop processing your request at the point this amount has been reached and will let you know before we incur additional charges. You can then either agree to pay the additional amount needed or narrow the scope of your request.

Fee Waiver

You have requested a fee waiver for this request. We believe that the records being requested will result in a fee less than \$50. We do not bill requesters for FOIA processing fees when their fees are less than \$50.00, because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected. See <u>43 C.F.R. § 2.37(g)</u>. Because of this, we believe your request for a fee waiver may be moot. Therefore, we do not anticipate that there will be a billable fee for the processing of this request. Should this change during the course of processing your request, and anticipate a fee being charged, we will provide a formal determination of your fee waiver request.

Processing Track

We use Multitrack Processing to process FOIA requests. The Simple track is for requests that would generally take one to five workdays to process. The Normal track is for requests that would generally take six to twenty workdays to process. The Complex track is for requests that would generally take twenty-one to sixty workdays to process. The Extraordinary track is for requests that would generally take more than sixty workdays to process. The Expedited track is for requests that have been granted expedited processing, which are processed as soon as practicable. Within each track, requests are usually processed on a first-in, first-out basis.

Your request falls into the Normal processing track. See 43 C.F.R. §§ 2.14, .15

Format of Records

You have asked for copies of agency records. According to our regulations, you may choose the format of disclosure for such records. Unless you specify otherwise, the Office of the Secretary will provide copies of responsive records electronically via email or CD-ROM as scanned PDF images when the responsive records exceed 50 pages.

10-Workday Extension

Because we will need to search for and collect requested records from field facilities or other units that are separate from the office processing the request, we are taking a 10-workday extension under 43 C.F.R. \S 2.19.

Conclusion

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of FOIA. See <u>5 U.S.C. 552(c)</u>. This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation.

You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov

Web: https://www.archives.gov/ogis

Telephone: 202-741-5770 Fax: 202-741-5769 Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

If you have any questions about this letter extending the due date, you may contact us by phone at 202-513-0765, by fax at 202-219-2374, by email at os foia@ios.doi.gov, or by mail at U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, MS-7328, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Contact information for the Department's FOIA Public Liaison, who you may also seek dispute resolution services from, is available at https://www.doi.gov/foia/foiacenters.

Sincerely,

CYNTHIA SWEENEY Digitally signed by CYNTHIA SWEENEY
Date: 2022.03.31 14:45:48
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Cynthia Sweeney Office of the Secretary FOIA Office