

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta GA 30333 August 14, 2023

Michael Ding America First Legal Foundation 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231 Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Mr. Ding:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of August 11, 2023 to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, for "All records of communications between the custodians listed below with ImranAhmed or with any e-mail account ending in the domain name "@counterhate.com. The time frame for this request is January 20, 2021 to the date this request is processed...." (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Items 10-12) Your request was referred to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for our direct response to you because the subject of your request pertains to CDC records. Your request has been assigned #HQ-REF-23-00052. You may check on the status of your case by going to our FOIA webpage at www2a.cdc.gov/od/foiastatus and entering this number. The fiscal year is the first two numbers and the request ID is the second set of numbers.

Your request has been received by the CDC/ATSDR and will be sent to the area(s) which may have pertinent records. Program officials will initiate a search, and we will provide a copy of all releasable agency records as quickly as possible. The cut-off date for your request will be the date the search for responsive records is initiated by program staff. All requests are handled on a first-in, first-out basis.

Please note that the records you seek are maintained outside of this office and our staff has not yet been able to complete a search to determine whether there are records within the scope of your request. Accordingly, we will be unable to comply with the twenty-working-day time limit in this case, as well as the ten additional days provided by the statute. The actual processing time will depend on the complexity of your request and whether sensitive records, voluminous records, extensive search, and/or consultation with other Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) components or other executive branch agencies are involved.

You can learn more about the FOIA and the HHS FOI regulations at the following web address: www.justice.gov/oip/ and www.hhs.gov/foia/45cfr5.html.

Fee Category

The FOIA and HHS FOI regulations allow agencies to recover part of the costs of processing FOIA requests. There may be a charge for these records. You have been classified as a Category Because you are considered an "Other requester" you are entitled to two hours of free search time, and up to 100 pages of duplication (or the cost equivalent of other media) without charge, and you will not be charged for review time. We may charge for search time beyond the first two hours and for duplication beyond the first 100 pages. (10 cents/page).

Cut-off-date

If you don't provide us with a date range for your request, the cut-off date for your request will be the date the search for responsive records starts

You may check on the status of your case on our FOIA webpage https://foia.cdc.gov/app/Home.aspx and entering your assigned request number. If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact me at 770-488-6067 or via email at JADavis2@cdc.gov.

We reasonably anticipate that you should receive documents by December 8, 2023. Please know that this date roughly estimates how long it will take the Agency to close requests ahead of your request in the queue and complete work on your request. The actual date of completion might be before or after this estimated date.

Sincerely,

Roger Andoh

CDC/ATSDR FOIA Officer

Office of the Chief Operating Officer (770) 488-6399

Fax: (404) 235-1852