

U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division

KK:AW FOI/PA No. 24-00053-F

Via Electronic Mail Only

America First Legal Foundation 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231

Reed Rubinstein

Freedom of Information/PA Unit -4CON 950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20530

May 29, 2025

FOIA@aflegal.org

Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

This is in further response to your November 21, 2023, Freedom of Information Act request seeking access to records containing any of the following words or phrases 1) Israel, 2) Jew, 3) Gaza, 4) Muslim, 5) anti-Semitism, 6) Islamophobia, 7) hate crime, 8) Hamas, 9) CAIR, 10) California AND Protest, 11) Palestine, 12) Palestinian, 13) Arab, 14) Michigan AND Protest, 15) alien or 16) visa for Kristen Clarke between October 1, 2023 and November 21, 2023.

We have agreed to a rolling production of documents. Attached is the first set of documents responsive to your request. This set consists of <u>601</u> pages. I have determined that the enclosed documents may be released to you subject to the excision of the names and other personally identifiable information pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6) since disclosure thereof would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. I have further determined that some information in the enclosed documents should be withheld in parts or in full pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(5) since the inter-agency memoranda consist of predecisional deliberative materials and attorney work-product, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7)(A) since disclosure thereof could reasonably be expected to interfere with law enforcement proceedings and 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7)(E) to protect techniques, procedures or guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law. Please be advised that we have considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing records and applying FOIA exemptions.

Additional documents are still in the review process, which will be followed by consultations with other DOJ components or federal agencies who have equities within those documents. Pursuant to our agreement, CRT will continue to process these records and provide them to you when they've completed this process.

Finally, in searching for documents responsive to your request, we located several pages which originated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Office of the Associate Attorney General (OASG), Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys (EOUSA) and Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Pursuant to Department of Justice regulations, 28 C.F.R. § 16.1 *et. seq.*, a copy of your request, complaint and the responsive documents have been referred to the originating component's FOIA office for review and a direct response to you. These components have been notified that these documents are part of an active litigation. Any questions you may have concerning these documents should be directed to the following:

FBI: Shannon Hammer, FBI FOIA Public Liaison, 540-868-2101 OAG: Eric Hotchkiss, OIP FOIA Public Liaison, 202-514-3642 OASG: Eric Hotchkiss, OIP FOIA Public Liaison, 202-514-3642 EOUSA: Arla Witte-Simpson, EOUSA FOIA Public Liaison, 202-252-6036 OIG: Deborah Waller, OIG FOIA Public Liaison, 202-616-0646 or <u>oigfoia@usdoj.gov</u>

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <u>https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal</u>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." If possible, please provide a copy of your original request and this response letter with your appeal.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is: 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 202-741-5769. Please reference the FOIA/PA No. above in any correspondence with OGIS.

I hope the Civil Rights Division has been of some assistance to you in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kilian Kagle

Kilian Kagle, Chief Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Unit Civil Rights Division