



May 23, 2024

Via Email: 162821-66350817@requests.muckrock.com

Patrick File  
MuckRock News, DEPT MR162821  
263 Huntington Ave  
Boston, MA 02115

RE: FOIA Case No. 2024-FPRO-01665 (**Amended**)

Dear Mr. File:

After further review by the Manager, Facility Optimization, there is a need to amend the quoted time needed to process your requested records.

We consider that you are within the category of "other requesters" as defined by Postal Service FOIA fee regulations. This category applies to requesters who are not commercial use requesters, educational or scientific requesters, or news media requesters.

Regarding fees under the FOIA, fair and equitable fees are established to permit the furnishing of records to the public, while recovering costs incurred by the Postal Service. The cost is calculated in accordance with our fee regulations at section 265.9 of Title 39, Code of Federal Regulations, which permit us to charge requests of "other requesters" search time at the rate of forty-two dollars (\$42.00) per hour and fifteen cents (\$0.15) per page for duplication, after providing the first two (2) hours of search time and the first one hundred (100) pages at no charge. In addition, our regulations require that requesters be notified in advance of all costs expected to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) if they have not indicated their willingness to accept costs that may be incurred in processing their request.

The cost to process your request has been reassessed and is now estimated to be a *minimum* of \$140.70 for search time 3.35 hours at a cost of forty-two dollars (\$42.00) per hour minus two (2) hours). There may be additional charges depending on actual services provided in the processing of this request.

We must caution you that you are liable for the fee even if certain portions of the requested records are withheld in accordance with our regulations. Upon receipt of your written agreement to accept costs, we will proceed with processing your request and provide an estimate of the time frame for our response.

We look forward to hearing from you as to how to proceed with your request. If we do not hear back from you within twenty (20) calendar days of this letter, no later than the corrected date of, June 13, 2024, we will assume you do not wish to incur costs to process your request, and we will close out this request.

If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you may file an administrative appeal within ninety (90) days of the date of this response letter by writing to the General Counsel U.S. Postal Service 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW Washington, DC 20260 or via email at [FOIAAppeal@usps.gov](mailto:FOIAAppeal@usps.gov). Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of the response to your request. The letter of appeal should include, as applicable:

- (1) A copy of the request, of any notification of denial or other action, and of any other related correspondence;
- (2) The FOIA tracking number assigned to the request;
- (3) A statement of the action, or failure to act, from which the appeal is taken;

- (4) A statement identifying the specific redactions to responsive records that the requester is challenging;
- (5) A statement of the relief sought; and
- (6) A statement of the reasons why the requester believes the action or failure to act is erroneous.

For further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request, you may contact FOIA Public Liaison listed below:

PRIVACY & RECORDS OFFICE  
US POSTAL SERVICE  
475 L'ENFANT PLAZA SW RM 1P830  
WASHINGTON DC 20260-1101  
Phone: (202) 268-2608  
Fax: (202) 268-5353  
FOIA Public Liaison: Nancy P. Chavannes

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 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](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

/s/ Shelley Brooks  
Government Information Specialist