



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Office of Information Policy  
*Sixth Floor*  
*441 G Street, NW*  
*Washington, DC 20530-0001*

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*Telephone: (202) 514-3642*

August 25, 2021

William Fernandes  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 116578  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516  
[116578-15365467@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:116578-15365467@requests.muckrock.com)

Re: FOIA-2021-01871

Dear William Fernandes:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated and received in this Office on July 28, 2021, in which you requested listing of all nominees for the Fourth Annual Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing.

The records you seek require a search in and/or consultation with another Office, and so your request falls within "unusual circumstances." See 5 U.S.C. 552 § (a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii) (2018). Because of these unusual circumstances, we need to extend the time limit to respond to your request beyond the ten additional days provided by the statute. For your information, we use multiple tracks to process requests, but within those tracks we work in an agile manner, and the time needed to complete our work on your request will necessarily depend on a variety of factors, including the complexity of our records search, the volume and complexity of any material located, and the order of receipt of your request. At this time we have assigned your request to the complex track. In an effort to speed up our process, you may wish to narrow the scope of your request to limit the number of potentially responsive records so that it can be placed in a different processing track. You can also agree to an alternative time frame for processing, should records be located, or you may wish to await the completion of our records search to discuss either of these options. Any decision with regard to the application of fees will be made only after we determine whether fees will be implicated for this request.

We regret the necessity of this delay, but we assure you that your request will be processed as soon as possible. If you have any questions or wish to discuss reformulation or an alternative time frame for the processing of your request, you may contact this Office by telephone at the above number or you may write to the Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Sixth Floor, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001. Lastly, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Valeree Villanueva, at the telephone number listed above to discuss any aspect of your request.

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, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, 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.

Sincerely,  
Initial Request Staff  
Office of Information Policy  
U.S. Department of Justice