



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

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

William Fernandes

August 28, 2023
Re: Appeal No. A-2023-00702
Request No. 126943-1

119660-91597331@requests.muckrock.com

VIA: Online Portal

Dear William Fernandes:

You appealed from the action of the Justice Management Division (JMD) on your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for access to records concerning any investigation findings within the Insider Threat office(s) for any FBI or DEA employees worldwide for the period generated during this timeframe October 2019 - October 2018. I note that your appeal concerns JMD's withholdings pursuant to Exemptions 6, 7(C), and 7(E).

After carefully considering your appeal, I am affirming JMD's action on your request. The FOIA provides for disclosure of many agency records. At the same time, Congress included in the FOIA nine exemptions from disclosure that provide protection for important interests such as personal privacy, privileged communications, and certain law enforcement activities. JMD properly withheld this information in full because it is protected from disclosure under the FOIA pursuant to:

5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), which concerns material the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of third parties;

5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C), which concerns records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes the release of which could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of third parties; and

5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(E), which concerns records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes the release of which would disclose techniques and procedures or guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions.

Please be advised that for each of these exemptions, it is reasonably foreseeable that disclosure of the information withheld would harm the interests protected by these exemptions.

Please be advised that this Office's decision was made only after a full review of this matter. Your appeal was assigned to an attorney with this Office who thoroughly reviewed and analyzed your appeal, your underlying request, and the action of JMD in response to your request.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on your appeal, the FOIA permits you to file a lawsuit in federal district court in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

For your information, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers 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. 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; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. If you have any questions regarding the action this Office has taken on your appeal, you may contact this Office and speak with the undersigned agency official by calling (202) 514-3642.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hurd

X

Matthew Hurd

Chief, Administrative Appeals Staff