March 14, 2016—Sent via U.S. mail

Re: Case Nos.: 201600225 & 201600246
NG: CM

Dear [Name]

This responds to your November 20 and November 30, 2015 submissions to the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). Thank you for your interest in OGIS.

Congress created OGIS to complement existing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) practice and procedure; we strive to work in conjunction with the existing request and appeal process. The goal is for OGIS to allow, whenever practical, the requester to exhaust his or her remedies within the agency, including the appeal process. OGIS has no investigatory or enforcement power, nor can we compel an agency to release documents. OGIS serves as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and our jurisdiction is limited to assisting with the FOIA process.

We have carefully reviewed your submissions, and it appears that you are concerned about the status of two FOIA requests to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). We contacted the FBI FOIA unit and learned the following about your requests:

- Request No. [redacted]: the FBI responded to this request in [redacted]. In your November 20, 2015 letter to OGIS, you indicate that you received this response. The FBI considers this case to be closed.
- Request No. [redacted]: the FBI expects to complete this request by September, 2016.

It appears that you dispute the FBI’s decision to open a new request (No. [redacted]) for your additional inquiry rather than processing it under your previous case No. [redacted]. OGIS does not have authority to compel an agency to assign a particular case number to a request.

I hope that this information about your requests is useful to you. At this time, there is no further assistance OGIS can offer. Thank you for bringing this matter to OGIS. We will close your case.

Sincerely,

/s/

JAMES V.M.L. HOLZER
Director

cc: FBI FOIA