



OFFICE of GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

December 1, 2015—Sent via email

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: Case No.: 201501213
NG: CM

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
and RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD
OGIS
COLLEGE PARK, MD
20740-6001

web: www.ogis.archives.gov
e-mail: ogis@nara.gov
phone: 202-741-5770
toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
fax: 202-741-5769

Dear [REDACTED]:

This responds to your September 15, 2015 request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). Your request for assistance pertains to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Congress created OGIS to complement existing 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.

I understand that you made a request to HUD for records related to its [REDACTED] program, and as part of that request, you asked for a waiver of fees. After contacting OGIS, you received correspondence from HUD that denied your request for a fee waiver. You asked for OGIS's assistance with this matter.

OGIS staff discussed your request with HUD FOIA Chief Deborah Snowden. According to Ms. Snowden, while your request for a waiver of fees was denied, for the purposes of this request, HUD placed you into the "representative of the news media" fee category. According to the *Department of Justice Guide to the Freedom of Information Act*, requesters who are placed in this category are responsible for duplication fees only. According to Ms. Snowden, your request is voluminous and requires extensive searching; however, because you are considered a representative of the news media, you will not be charged for those searches. Further, because the agency plans to release the records responsive to your request on CD, no duplication fees will apply.



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I understand that you are concerned about the status of your request. According to Ms. Snowden, because the search for records responsive to your request is not yet complete, the agency cannot provide an estimated date of completion for this request. Ms. Snowden recommends that you contact [REDACTED], the FOIA Specialist processing your case, directly. You may wish to discuss whether you would like to narrow the scope of your request or the feasibility of the agency issuing rolling releases as it reviews responsive records.

[REDACTED].

I hope that you find this information about your request helpful. 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
Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)

cc: Deborah Snowden, HUD FOIA

We appreciate your feedback. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OGIS> to take a brief anonymous survey on the service you received from OGIS.