



U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
FOI/Records Management Section
8701 Morrissette Drive
Springfield, Virginia 22152

Case Number: 20-00004-L

MAR 13 2020

Subject: American Civil Liberties Union, and American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, v.
United States Department of Justice, FBI and DEA
Case 1:19-cv-12242
DEA Case Number 19-00270-F

Daniel L. McFadden, Esq.
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
Foundation of Massachusetts, Inc.
211 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02110
dmcfadden@aclum.org

Dear Mr. McFadden:

Pursuant to the above-captioned civil action, DEA conducted a search for records potentially responsive to the Plaintiffs' request as defined in Plaintiffs' January 18, 2019 letter to Defendants. Enclosed please find 38 pages representing a release of portions of documents responsive to your request. For this production, DEA reviewed approximately 600 potentially responsive documents, which resulted in 44 total responsive pages. The portions withheld are exempt from disclosure pursuant to the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552. Please refer to the list enclosed with this letter that identifies the authority for withholding the deleted material, which is indicated by a mark appearing in the block next to the exemption. An additional enclosure with this letter explains these exemptions in more detail. The agency documents you requested are enclosed with this letter.

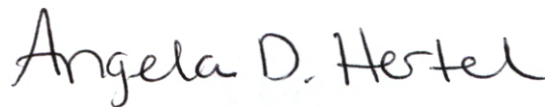
Certain DEA documents contained information furnished by the Department of Justice, Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties (OPCL). DEA is in the process of consulting with OPCL before granting access to the documents in accordance with 28 C.F.R. § 16.4 and/or 16.42. You will be notified if more material is available for release pending results from the consultation.

Further, certain documents contain information that was furnished by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Executive Office for Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF). That information and a copy of your request have been referred for a decision as to access and the FBI and OCDETF will respond directly to you in accordance with 28 C.F.R. § 16.4 and/or 16.42.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Susan M. Poswistilo, Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, at susan.poswistilo@usdoj.gov or 617-748-3103.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela D. Hertel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela D. Hertel, Acting Chief
Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Unit
FOI/Records Management Section

Cc: Susan M. Poswistilo, U.S. Department of Justice

Number of pages released: 38

Number of pages referred: 4

Number of pages consulted: 2

APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND/OR PRIVACY ACT:

**Freedom of Information Act
5 U.S.C. 552**

**Privacy Act
5 U.S.C. 552a**

(b)(1) (b)(5) (b)(7)(C)
 (b)(2) (b)(6) (b)(7)(D)
 (b)(3) (b)(7)(A) (b)(7)(E)
 (b)(4) (b)(7)(B) (b)(7)(F)

(d)(5) (k)(2)
 (j)(2) (k)(5)
 (k)(1) (k)(6)

Enclosures

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS
SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), if that statute-
(A)(i) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue; or (ii) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld; and (B) if enacted after the date of enactment of the OPEN FOIA Act of 2009, specifically cites to this paragraph.
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of a record or information compiled by criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.