

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION and
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
FOUNDATION,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, FEDERAL
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, and
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY,

Defendants.

Case No. 24-cv-5722

**DECLARATION OF TIFFANIE
WOODLAND**

DECLARATION OF TIFFANIE WOODLAND

I. INTRODUCTION

I, Tiffanie Woodland, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am the Senior Government Information Specialist for the FOIA Unit within the Information Law and Disclosure Division (“ILD”) in the Office of Counsel at the United States Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General (“DHS OIG”), and I have served in this capacity since January 2025. I have almost ten years of FOIA experience, which includes experience in leading FOIA programs at the United States Agency for International Development (“USAID”) and at the United States Postal Inspection Service (“USPIS”).

2. As the Senior Government Information Specialist (“GIS”) for the DHS OIG, I serve as the Team Lead to four Government Information Specialists and assist in the daily operation of FOIA processing from intake to closeout, make assessments of the agency’s FOIA program and implement improvements, maintain constant communication with agency leadership on our FOIA program, and provide technical assistance to the FOIA team to ensure agency compliance with the

FOIA. As the Senior GIS, I also assist ILD attorneys, who serve as agency counsel in the representation of DHS OIG in FOIA litigation, including document production.

3. DHS OIG's FOIA Unit is housed within ILD. The FOIA Unit is responsible for receiving, processing, and responding to all FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, and Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, requests received by DHS OIG.

4. My official duties and responsibilities related to the FOIA include the processing of FOIA and Privacy Act requests received by DHS OIG. As the Senior GIS, I also assist in the approval of search taskings to Program Offices and review work completed by the division's Government Information Specialists ("GISs"). Due to my experience and the nature of my official duties, I am familiar with DHS OIG's procedures for searching and responding to requests for information pursuant to provisions of the FOIA and the Privacy Act.

5. The statements contained in this declaration are based upon my personal knowledge, my review of records kept by DHS OIG in the ordinary course of business, and information provided to me by other DHS OIG employees in the course of my official duties.

6. This declaration provides a description of DHS OIG's search in response to Plaintiffs' FOIA request 2025-IGRF-00005.

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY OF THE PLAINTIFFS' FOIA REQUEST, THE INSTANT LITIGATION, AND DHS OIG'S DELAYED INVOLVEMENT

7. By letter dated May 21, 2024, Plaintiffs submitted to the DHS Privacy Office ("DHS PRIV"), the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and the U.S. Department of Justice's National Security Division ("DOJ NSD"), the FOIA request at issue in this litigation.¹

¹ Plaintiffs did not directly send the initial FOIA request to DHS OIG even though such an action is routinely completed by similarly situated requesters, including Plaintiffs' own offices throughout the country.

8. By letter dated May 30, 2024, DHS PRIV acknowledged receipt of Plaintiffs' request and notified Plaintiffs that the request was being transferred to the DHS Headquarters Office of Intelligence and Analysis ("I&A") for processing and direct response. *See* Ex. A.

9. As a general note, DHS has a decentralized system for responding to FOIA requests. Accordingly, each component within DHS has a designated FOIA office that processes records from that specific component. *See* 6 C.F.R. § 5.3(a)(1). One DHS component does not process records for all DHS components, and one DHS component does not run searches of another DHS component's systems, databases, etc. for records.

10. To make a FOIA request for records, a requester should write directly to the FOIA office of the component that maintains the records being sought. *Id.*

11. If a requester does not know which DHS component maintains records that may be responsive to a request, the requester may *explicitly* ask for assistance from DHS PRIV with identifying the proper component that most likely maintains responsive records.² *Id.* at § 5.3(a)(2) (emphasis added). Upon receipt of a request for assistance – and based on information provided in the FOIA request and by the requester – DHS PRIV will forward the request to the DHS component(s) that it determines to be most likely to maintain responsive records. *Id.*

12. DHS PRIV will then notify the requester that it is forwarding the request and will include in the notification the DHS component(s) the request is being forwarded to, the FOIA Public Liaison contact information for the respective component(s), and administrative appeal rights. If the requester does not agree with DHS PRIV's determination regarding which

² It should be noted that in the FOIA request, Plaintiffs did not explicitly ask for assistance from DHS PRIV with identifying the proper component(s) that most likely possessed potentially responsive records in accordance with the DHS FOIA regulation.

component(s) would likely have records responsive to the request, the requester must submit a timely appeal. *Id.*

13. Based on a review and analysis of Plaintiffs' FOIA request, DHS PRIV did not determine that DHS OIG was likely to have responsive records. Thus, DHS PRIV did not refer or forward the request to DHS OIG for processing and direct response following Plaintiffs' submission of the request.³

14. In DHS PRIV's acknowledgement letter dated May 30, 2024, as stated above, DHS PRIV notified Plaintiffs that the request was being transferred to I&A for processing and direct response since this component was most likely to possess responsive records. By letter dated June 26, 2024, Plaintiffs appealed DHS PRIV's May 30, 2024, referral determination. *See* Ex. B. Specifically, Plaintiffs stated "[i]t was not plausible that the Privacy Office does not have responsive documents. DHS's Privacy Office and all other components with responsive records must therefore conduct a search and promptly process records responsive to the Request." *Id.* Plaintiffs did *not* specify that DHS OIG must search for and subsequently process any potentially responsive records.

15. While the appeal regarding the referral determination was pending, on July 29, 2024, Plaintiffs filed a Complaint alleging that DHS, DOJ FBI, and DOJ NSD failed to produce responsive records and comply with the time limit provision of the FOIA. *See* ECF No. 1.

16. In approximately September 2024, after Plaintiffs complaint had been filed, Plaintiffs suggested that the request be referred to DHS OIG as well as several other DHS

³ For a discussion of DHS PRIV's administrative history regarding Plaintiffs' FOIA request as well as their present involvement with the litigation, *see* Declaration of Catrina M. Pavlik-Keenan, dated April 14, 2025, submitted in support of Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment.

components/agencies during discussions with counsel for Defendants. DHS did not agree to refer the request to DHS OIG at that time.

17. On October 10, 2024, Plaintiffs shared two publicly available reports that DHS OIG had either authored or contributed to as evidence that DHS OIG should receive the request on referral and begin processing it.⁴

18. On January 7, 2025, DHS PRIV referred the request, dated May 21, 2024, to DHS OIG for processing.⁵

19. On January 24, 2025, DHS OIG emailed an acknowledgement letter to Plaintiffs, assigning the FOIA request case number 2025-IGRF-00005.

20. On February 13, 2025, DHS OIG issued a final response indicating that pursuant to several searches conducted, no responsive records were located.

21. This declaration provides a description of DHS OIG's searches in response to Plaintiffs' FOIA request.

III. DHS OIG'S STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR INITIATING SEARCHES IN RESPONSE TO FOIA REQUESTS

22. When DHS OIG receives a FOIA request, the FOIA Unit evaluates it to determine if it is a proper FOIA request per the DHS FOIA regulation, 6 C.F.R. § 5.3. Generally, a FOIA request is considered proper and in compliance with the DHS regulation if it is made in writing and reasonably describes the records sought, and the records are under the purview of DHS OIG.

⁴ Both reports were determined to be not responsive to Plaintiffs' request, as discussed later in the declaration.

⁵ Although Plaintiffs could have (1) sent the FOIA request directly to DHS OIG when it was initially submitted, (2) explicitly requested DHS PRIV's assistance in determining which component or agency was most likely to possess responsive records, or (3) sent a similar FOIA request directly to DHS OIG following the initial submission, Plaintiffs did none of the above. Instead, Plaintiffs waited until the complaint was filed to bring DHS OIG into the litigation and prevent any opportunity to respond in the administrative stage.

23. Pursuant to 6 C.F.R. § 5.3(c), if a FOIA request does not reasonably describe the records sought or it is improperly submitted, the FOIA Unit may seek clarification from the requester or administratively close the request.

24. If the FOIA request seeks records under the purview of another component or agency, or DHS OIG locates records that fall under the purview of another component or agency, the FOIA Unit will (1) refer the request and/or the records to that component or agency, (2) notify the requester of the referral, and (3) inform the requester of the name of each component or agency to which the request/records were referred. *Id.* at § 5.4(f). The FOIA Unit will also notify the requester to contact that component or agency directly, and DHS OIG will administratively close the FOIA request if the entire responsibility for responding lies with another component or agency.

25. Perfected FOIA requests that fall under DHS OIG's purview are entered into a database known as FOIAXpress and assigned a case tracking number and FOIA processor. Based upon the requester's description of the records being sought and the FOIA Unit's knowledge of the various program offices' missions, the FOIA processor identifies the program office(s) likely to possess responsive records and tasks the appropriate program office(s) to conduct the necessary searches.

26. The program offices are typically staffed with a designated point of contact ("POC") who is the primary person responsible for communications between that program office and the FOIA Unit. Each POC is a person with detailed knowledge about the operations of his/her particular program office.

27. The POC within each of those program offices is provided with a copy of the FOIA request, an email detailing the FOIA request, instructions to conduct a search for responsive records, and a search form to document information such as search terms, databases searched, and

any other program offices believed to have responsive records. As the program offices are best positioned to determine where responsive records are located, they are responsible for searching all locations and by all keywords that the program office reasonably believes would identify potentially responsive records. The POCs then review the FOIA request, along with any case-specific instructions that may have been provided, and based on their experience and knowledge of their program office practices and activities, forward the request and instructions to the individual employee(s) within the program office that they believe are reasonably likely to have potentially responsive records.

28. DHS OIG program offices use various systems to maintain records, and DHS OIG employees maintain records in several ways. DHS OIG employees may store electronic records on their individual computer hard drives, their program office's shared drive, databases, DVDs, CDs, and/or USB storage devices. The determination of whether or not these electronic locations must be searched in response to a particular FOIA tasking, as well as how to conduct such searches and what search terms, if any, should be used, is necessarily based on the manner in which the employee maintains his/her files.

29. DHS OIG employees may also maintain hard copies of records, such as investigation files, which may be stored and maintained within an employee's office and/or the DHS OIG Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility ("SCIF"), depending on whether the records are classified. Whether or not hard copies of records must be searched in response to a FOIA tasking is based on the employee's determination and knowledge as to whether hard copies exist as well as the employee's knowledge of his/her own files.

30. Additionally, all DHS OIG employees have access to email. DHS OIG uses the Microsoft Outlook email system. Each DHS OIG employee stores his/her files in the way that

works best for that particular employee. Thus, if an employee searches their email for responsive records, the search terms and the manner in which the employee searches – to include folders within Outlook – is unique to that individual employee and may not necessarily replicate another employee’s search efforts.

31. Once records are received, the FOIA processor will make a determination as to whether or not the records are responsive to the FOIA request. If the records are responsive, the FOIA processor will redact information pursuant to the FOIA and/or Privacy Act, as appropriate, while simultaneously ensuring that all reasonably segregable, non-exempt information is released. Moreover, the FOIA processor makes the determination as to the necessity for referrals and/or consultations.

IV. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF DHS OIG AND THE PROGRAM OFFICES TASKED WITH SEARCHING FOR RECORDS IN RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS’ FOIA REQUEST 2025-IGRF-00005, AND EXPLANATION OF SEARCHES CONDUCTED

32. DHS OIG’s mission is to provide independent oversight and promote excellence, integrity, and accountability within DHS. The goal of the agency is to drive transformative change to improve DHS programs and operations and promote a safer homeland.⁶ Such work is accomplished by the various program offices that make up the agency, which includes: the Executive Office of the IG, the Office of Audits, the Office of Investigations, the Office of Inspections and Evaluations, the Office of Integrity, the Office of Management, the Office of Innovation, and the Office of Counsel.

33. **Office of Audits Search.** The Office of Audits (“OA”) provides independent evaluation and analysis of DHS programs and operations, with the goal of promoting excellence,

⁶ See <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/about>.

integrity, and accountability within DHS. Through independent audits and program analyses, OA (1) protects the public interest and taxpayer dollars by bringing about positive change in the performance, accountability, and integrity of DHS programs and operations, including disaster assistance, acquisitions, counterterrorism, border security, immigration enforcement, and information technology systems and infrastructure; (2) seeks out best practices that will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of component agencies; helps program managers achieve the desired results and operate in accordance with laws and regulations; (3) identifies deficiencies and makes recommendations for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of DHS's information and technology management, operations, and security; (4) ensures the review of disaster assistance funds and disaster programs are operating in an effective and efficient manner and the spending of public funds is in accordance with regulations; and (5) identifies deficiencies and makes recommendations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of DHS and component programs, helping Department leadership and program managers achieve their mission while operating in accordance with laws and regulations.

34. When OA receives a FOIA search tasking from the FOIA Unit, the request is submitted to a FOIA POC. Based upon the substance of the request, a search of OA's files is conducted, which may include any paper files and electronic files. Once searches are completed, any potentially responsive records are provided to the FOIA processor. The FOIA processor then reviews the collected records for responsiveness and any applicable redactions pursuant to appropriate exemptions.

35. Plaintiffs' FOIA request specifically sought, "(1) All final policies, guidance, procedures, directives, advisories, memoranda, agreements, training materials, and/or legal opinions created from January 20, 2017 to the present, pertaining to: (a) [t]he use of JTTFs and/or

fusion centers to collect information about, monitor, surveil, observe, question, interrogate, and/or investigate individuals or organizations engaged in protest; (b) [t]he activities and/or predicate criteria that trigger JTTF and/or fusion center involvement, including the legal justification and/or factual showing required; (c) [i]ntra-agency correspondence and correspondence among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies pertaining to monitoring, surveilling, observing, questioning, interrogating, and/or otherwise investigating individuals or groups engaged in protest through or by JTTFs and/or fusion centers; (d) [t]he collection, storage, use, and/or dissemination of data (including photographs, videos, and electronic surveillance records) obtained during and/or in connection with monitoring of individuals or groups engaged in protest through or by JTTFs and/or fusion centers; and (e) JTTFs and fusion centers' protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. (2) Records created from January 20, 2017 to the present, indicating: (a) [t]he number of individuals whose activities have been investigated through or by JTTFs and/or fusion centers in connection with protests; and (b) [t]he number and names of groups whose activities have been investigated through or by JTTFs and/or fusion centers in connection with [protests.] (3) Records created from January 20, 2017, to the present concerning the definition of the following terms as used and applied by JTTFs and/or fusion centers; (a) 'Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremism'; (b) 'Anti-Government or Anti-Authority Violent Extremism'; (c) 'Animal Rights or Environmental Violent Extremism'; (d) 'All Other Domestic Terrorism Threats'; (e) 'Abortion-Related Violent Extremism'; (f) 'Domestic violent extremism'; (g) 'Domestic terrorism'; (h) 'Anarchist violent extremism'; (i) 'Radical agitators'; (j) 'Criminal organizers and instigators'; (k) 'Violent instigators'; (l) 'Antifa'; and (m) 'Far-left extremists.' (4). Records describing the process and/or procedures individuals may use to find out whether and

what information about themselves has been collected and maintained by JTTFs and fusion centers, and the process by which any inaccurate information may be challenged and expunged.”

36. Based on the Plaintiffs’ description of the records sought, the reference by the Plaintiffs to a non-responsive DHS OIG *audit* report – as noted above in paragraph 17 – and the FOIA Unit’s knowledge of the various program offices within DHS OIG, the FOIA Unit determined that OA was reasonably likely to have records responsive to Plaintiffs’ FOIA request. The FOIA Unit therefore sent a tasking to OA. The Acting Director of Liaison for OA, who also served as the FOIA POC, received the search tasking and conducted a search of his outlook as well as OA’s electronic files located within the Project Tracking System, the TeamMate application,⁷ and the program office’s Shared O: Drive, which houses audit project folders. The search terms used for each search were: “Joint Terrorism Task Force”; “JTTF”; “Fusion Center”; “protest”; “privacy”; “civil rights”; “civil liberties”; and all terms listed in subpart (3) of Plaintiffs’ request. Additionally, based on the Acting Director of Liaison’s knowledge of the requested records, the following search terms were also used: “monitor”; “surveil”; “observe”; “question”; “interrogate”; and “investigate.”⁸ Although Plaintiffs’ request primarily sought records created from January 20, 2017 to the present, OA’s search was open-ended, thus neither a specific date range nor any timeframe restrictions were imposed so that the return of potentially responsive records was maximized.

37. Pursuant to the search terms used, the electronic systems searched, and the OA FOIA POC’s knowledge of the program office’s records, the POC did not determine that any other individual within OA were reasonably likely to possess potentially responsive records.

⁷ TeamMate is an audit management application. It provides an internal platform for documenting, sharing, reviewing, and tracking work throughout the lifecycle of an audit, inspection, and/or evaluation of a DHS program or activity. See https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/24_0509_priv_pia-oig-004-teammate-final.pdf.

⁸ Each of these additional terms were searched in relation to “protests” to coincide with Plaintiffs’ request.

38. On February 4, 2025, the OA FOIA POC provided all potentially responsive records to the FOIA Unit for further responsiveness review and processing.

39. The FOIA Unit manually reviewed the records that were provided by OA for responsiveness and determined that none of the records provided were responsive to Plaintiffs' request.

40. **Office of Inspections and Evaluations Search.** The Office of Inspections and Evaluations ("OIE") is comprised of teams that conduct evaluations, inspections, and special reviews. The work of OIE often results in recommendations to minimize inefficiencies, correct vulnerabilities, and address misconduct in all DHS programs and practices, with a particular expertise in assessing issues related to immigration, civil rights and civil liberties, counterterrorism, and administrative misconduct. OIE frequently conducts reviews at the request of Congress or senior DHS officials.

41. Similar to OA, when OIE receives a FOIA tasking from the FOIA Unit, the request is submitted to a FOIA POC. Based upon the substance of the request, a search of OIE's files is conducted, which may include any paper files and electronic files. Once searches are completed, any potentially responsive records are provided to the FOIA processor who then reviews the collected records for responsiveness and any applicable redactions pursuant to appropriate exemptions.

42. As noted in paragraph 35 above, Plaintiffs' FOIA request sought, among other things, various records regarding JTTFs' and/or fusion centers' monitoring and collection of information on people engaged in protests, and the protection of their privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

43. Based on the request and the FOIA Unit's knowledge and expertise regarding DHS OIG's various program offices, as well as Plaintiffs specifically referencing a non-responsive U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") OIG report⁹ in their correspondence with Defendants' counsel – again, as noted in paragraph 17 above – it was determined that OIE was reasonably likely to have records, should any exist, potentially responsive to Plaintiffs' FOIA request. Thus, the FOIA Unit sent a search tasking to OIE.

44. Upon receipt of the FOIA request search tasking, the OIE FOIA POC forwarded the request and the tasking instructions to the appropriate individuals within OIE to conduct a search for any responsive records. Pursuant to the search tasking, an Intelligence Officer within OIE determined that the only locations reasonably likely to contain records responsive to Plaintiffs' request were his email within Outlook as well as the program office's Shared O: Drive, which houses project folders. Accordingly, the Intelligence Officer conducted a search of both locations using the following terms: "Joint Terrorism Task Force"; "JTTF"; "surveil"; "surveillance"; "interrogate"; and "protest."¹⁰ Additionally, based on the Intelligence Officer's knowledge of the requested records, the following search term was also used: "extremism." Although Plaintiffs' request primarily sought records created from January 20, 2017 to the present, OIE's search was open-ended, thus neither a specific date range nor any timeframe restrictions were imposed so that the return of potentially responsive records was maximized.

⁹ DHS OIG's Office of Inspections and Evaluations ("OIE") contributed to this DOJ OIG report.

¹⁰ As noted above in paragraphs 33 and 40, OA and OIE are two distinct program offices with their own responsibilities, roles, and records. Moreover, as noted in paragraphs 28 - 30, each employee within OIG maintains files in an individual way. Accordingly, the search terms used, and the locations searched will necessarily be different and were necessarily different for this request.

45. Pursuant to the search terms used, the electronic systems searched, and the OIE FOIA POC's knowledge of the program office's records, the POC did not determine that any other individual within OIE needed to conduct a search.

46. On January 27, 2025, the OIE FOIA POC responded via email to the FOIA Unit's search tasking, concluding that there were no records located that were responsive to Plaintiffs' request.

47. By follow-up email on February 4, 2025, the OIE FOIA POC provided the above-referenced search terms in paragraph 44 that were used by the OIE Intelligence Officer, as well as clarifying information related to the conducted search.

48. **Public Website Search.** In addition to the program offices' searches noted in the preceding paragraphs, a search of the DHS OIG public website was conducted to determine if any reports and/or other records were located that may be responsive to Plaintiffs' FOIA request. The search terms used for the public website search were: "JTTF," "fusion," and "fusion center," and the timeframe was also open-ended, thus neither a specific date range nor any timeframe restrictions were imposed so that the return of potentially responsive records was maximized. Based on a review of the records that were located pursuant to these search terms, it was determined that none of these records were responsive to Plaintiffs' FOIA request.¹¹

*Review and Coordination Regarding the Two Reports Specifically Referenced by
Plaintiffs*

49. As previously stated, in correspondence with Defendants' counsel, Plaintiffs mention two reports that referenced or related to DHS OIG, thus rendering their opinion that DHS

¹¹ It should be noted that there were reports located that generally related to JTTFs or fusion centers; however, upon review, these reports were not responsive to Plaintiffs' FOIA request as they were either outside the scope of the request, or the subject of the report/review was not responsive to what Plaintiffs specifically sought. Therefore, these reports and/or other records were not provided to Plaintiffs because of their non-responsive nature.

OIG should have been referred the request and conducted a search for records. One of the reports was authored by DHS OIG, and one of the reports was a DOJ OIG report in which DHS OIG assisted with a portion of the review. The report that was authored by DHS OIG is titled, “Homeland Security Information Network Improvements and Challenges,” Report Number OIG-13-98, and is dated June 2013. Accordingly, it is outside the scope of Plaintiffs’ FOIA request and is therefore not responsive. The DOJ OIG report that DHS OIG contributed to is titled, “Review of Domestic Sharing of Counterterrorism,” and is dated March 2017. In reviewing the report, itself, it was determined that this report was not responsive to any subparts of Plaintiffs’ FOIA request. Moreover, and out of an abundance of caution due to the final report being within the appropriate timeframe, the FOIA Unit coordinated with the DHS OIG Office of Inspections and Evaluations (“OIE”) to discuss this report and any potentially responsive records associated with it. OIE relayed to the FOIA Unit that the fieldwork for DHS OIG’s portion of this report was completed in 2015 which, again, is outside the scope of Plaintiffs’ request. Thus, not only is the subject matter and content of the report not responsive to any portion of Plaintiffs’ request, but the fieldwork associated with DHS OIG’s portion of this report/review is outside the scope of Plaintiffs’ FOIA request further confirming the non-responsive determination. Plaintiffs’ FOIA request sought records created on or after January 20, 2017, not prior to or after 2015.

50. Even though neither of these reports were responsive to Plaintiffs’ FOIA request, DHS OIG proceeded to conduct searches of OA, OIE, and the public website, as discussed above, to determine if there were any potentially responsive records. None were located.

51. Lastly, and most significantly, Plaintiffs’ FOIA request specifically states the following: “JTTFs, for example, have been in operation since at least 1980, but their impact on privacy and civil rights and liberties *has not been meaningfully evaluated by [Inspectors General]*,

Congress, or other federal entities.”¹² *See* ACLU FOIA request, pg. 5, May 21, 2024 (emphasis added). Moreover, a footnote to this sentence states, “[p]ublicly available reports and investigations related to the work of JTTFs have so far *not set out* to consider the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties impacts,” and references a non-responsive DHS OIG report to highlight this fact,¹³ as well as the non-responsive March 2017 DOJ OIG report noted above. *Id.* at pg. 5, fn. 18 (emphasis added). Based on these statements, Plaintiffs were aware at the outset of their FOIA request that DHS OIG did not have any records or reports that were responsive to their request.

52. Accordingly, the searches of the public website and those that were completed by the DHS OIG Office of Audits and Office of Inspections and Evaluations were adequate and reasonably calculated to identify potentially responsive records, should any exist. None of the records located from these searches were responsive to Plaintiffs’ request. Therefore, DHS OIG issued a final, no records response to Plaintiffs by letter dated February 13, 2025.

V. JURAT CLAUSE

I declare under penalty of perjury that the forgoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Signed this 14th day of __April__ 2025.

TIFFANIE M
WOODLAND

Digitally signed by TIFFANIE M
WOODLAND
Date: 2025.04.14 11:35:06 -04'00'

Tiffany Woodland

Supervisory Government Information Specialist

Information Law and Disclosure Division, FOIA Division

Office of Inspector General

¹² This statement also appears in Plaintiffs’ Complaint. *See* ECF. No. 1, para. 19.

¹³ This non-responsive report is different than the other two noted in previous paragraphs. This report is titled, “HSI Effectively Contributes to the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force, But Partnering Agreements Could Be Improved,” Report Number OIG-20-59, issue date August 13, 2020.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



Homeland
Security

May 30, 2024

Aamra Ahmad
American Civil Liberties Union
915 15th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: 2024-HQFO-01500

Dear Requester:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Privacy Office, dated 5/21/2024, and received in this office on 5/21/2024. You requested documents regarding all final policies, guidance, procedures, directives, advisories, memoranda, agreements, training materials, legal opinions, and/or records created January 20, 2017 to the present, pertaining to (1) the extent to which JTTFs and fusion centers (a) monitor and collect information on people engaged in protest activity and/or (b) associate protest with "terrorism," and (2) whether their privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties policies are adequate to guard against abuses and discrimination. With additional details provided within the request.

Due to the subject matter of your request, I am transferring this request to the FOIA Officer for DHS Headquarters Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A), for processing under the FOIA and direct response to you. Please see below for their contact information.

DHS Headquarters Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A)
Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. AVE SE
Washington, DC 20528-065
Phone: 202-447-4561 | Fax: 202-612-1936 | E-mail: IAFOIA@HQ.DHS.GOV

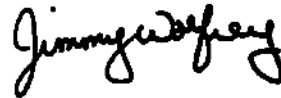
You have a right to appeal the above determination. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 90 days of the date of this letter, to: Privacy Office, Attn: FOIA Appeals, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE, Mail Stop 0655, Washington, D.C. 20528-0655, following the procedures outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations at 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(2). Your envelope and letter should be marked "FOIA Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and DHS FOIA regulations are available at www.dhs.gov/foia.

You may contact the DHS FOIA Public Liaison at 202-343-1743 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. You may also contact 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, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you need to contact our office again about this matter, please refer to 2024-HQFO-01500. You may contact this office at 1-866-431-0486 or 202-343-1743.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jimmy Wolfrey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jimmy" and last name "Wolfrey" clearly distinguishable.

Jimmy Wolfrey
Senior Director, FOIA Operations and Management