

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
National Records Center  
P.O. Box 648010  
Lee's Summit, MO 64064-8010



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

January 29, 2021

Zachary Heiden  
ACLU of Maine  
121 Middle Street  
Ste. 200  
Portland, ME 04101

**COW2019500947**

Dear Zachary Heiden:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act (FOIA/PA) request received in this office on August 5, 2019, regarding information pertaining to approvals, referrals, and denials of affirmative asylum cases arising out of the Newark Asylum Office and Boston Asylum Sub-Office.

Enclosed is our first release of records, which consists of 623 pages that are responsive to your request. Enclosed are 563 pages released in their entirety and 1 page released in part. Additionally, we have referred 57 pages in their entirety to Department of Homeland Security and 2 pages in their entirety to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. We have reviewed and have determined to release all information except those portions that are exempt pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7)(c) and (b)(7)(e) of the FOIA.

The following exemptions are applicable:

Exemption (b)(7)(E) of the FOIA provides protection for records or information for law enforcement purposes which 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. The types of documents and/or information we have withheld could consist of law enforcement systems checks, manuals, checkpoint locations, surveillance techniques, and various other documents.

Exemption (b)(7)(C) provides protection for personal information in law enforcement records, which could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. We have withheld information relating to third-party individuals. The types of documents and/or information that we have withheld could consist of names, addresses, identification numbers, telephone numbers, fax numbers, or various other documents that are considered personal.

As a result of discussion between agency personnel and a member of our staff, as a matter of administrative discretion, we are releasing computer codes found on system screen prints previously withheld under exemption b(2). There may be additional documents that contain discretionary releases of exempt information. If made, these releases are specifically identified in the responsive record. These discretionary releases do not waive our ability to invoke applicable FOIA exemptions for similar or related information in the future.

The enclosed record consists of the best reproducible copies available. Certain pages may contain marks that appear to be blacked-out information. The black marks were made prior to our receipt of the file and are not information we have withheld under the provisions of the FOIA or PA.

The National Records Center does not process petitions, applications or any other type of benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act. If you have questions or wish to submit documentation relating to a matter pending with the bureau, you must address these issues with your nearest District Office.

All FOIA/PA related requests, including address changes, must be submitted in writing and be signed by the requester. Questions concerning this FOIA/PA request may be mailed to the FOIA/PA Officer at the PO Box listed at the top of the letterhead or emailed to [FOIAPAQuestions@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:FOIAPAQuestions@uscis.dhs.gov). Please include the control number listed above on all correspondence with this office. You can now submit a new FOIA request online using our new Freedom of Information Act Records System (FIRST). If you wish to submit a new FOIA/PA request, please visit [www.uscis.gov/FOIA](http://www.uscis.gov/FOIA) for instructions and requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terri White".

Terri White  
Acting Director, FOIA Operations

Enclosure(s)