

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 12th St SW, Stop 5009
Washington, DC 20536



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

February 02, 2017

Susan Long
Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse
Syracuse University
360 Newhouse II
Syracuse, NY 13244-2100

Rec'd
2-9-17 JG

RE: ICE FOIA Case Number 2017-ICFO-08062

Dear Ms. Long:

This letter is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), dated November 30, 2016, for the latest anonymous data concerning Form I-247N requests issued for November 2016.

ICE has considered your request under both the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a. Information about an individual that is maintained in a Privacy Act system of records may be accessed by that individual¹ unless the agency has exempted the system of records from the access provisions of the Privacy Act.²

A search of the ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) for records responsive to your request produced 1 Excel spreadsheet that is responsive to your request. After review of those documents, ICE has determined that portions of the 1 Excel spreadsheet will be withheld pursuant to Exemptions (b)(6) and (b)(7)(C) of the Privacy Act and FOIA as described below.

ICE has applied FOIA Exemptions 6 and 7(C) to protect from disclosure the names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of DHS employees contained within the documents.

FOIA Exemption 6 exempts from disclosure personnel or medical files and similar files the release of which would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. This requires a balancing of the public's right to disclosure against the individual's right to privacy. The privacy interests of the individuals in the records you have requested outweigh any minimal public interest in disclosure of the information. Any private interest you may have in that information does not factor into the aforementioned balancing test.

¹ 5 U.S.C. § 552a(d)(1).

² 5 U.S.C. §§ 552a(d)(5), (j), and (k).

FOIA Exemption 7(C) protects records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. This exemption takes particular note of the strong interests of individuals, whether they are suspects, witnesses, or investigators, in not being unwarrantably associated with alleged criminal activity. That interest extends to persons who are not only the subjects of the investigation, but those who may have their privacy invaded by having their identities and information about them revealed in connection with an investigation. Based upon the traditional recognition of strong privacy interest in law enforcement records, categorical withholding of information that identifies third parties in law enforcement records is ordinarily appropriate. As such, I have determined that the privacy interest in the identities of individuals in the records you have requested clearly outweigh any minimal public interest in disclosure of the information. Please note that any private interest you may have in that information does not factor into this determination.

If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you have the right to appeal following the procedures outlined in the DHS regulations at 6 C.F.R. § 5.9. 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:

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Office of the Principal Legal Advisor
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 12th Street., S.W., Mail Stop 5900
Washington, D.C. 20536-5900

Your envelope and letter should be marked "FOIA Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and DHS regulations are available at www.dhs.gov/foia.

Provisions of the FOIA and Privacy Act allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. In this instance, because the cost is below the \$14 minimum, there is no charge.³

³ 6 CFR § 5.11(d)(4).

If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact the FOIA office refer to FOIA case number **2017-ICFO-08062**. You may send an e-mail to ice-foia@ice.dhs.gov, call toll free (866) 633-1182, or you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison in the same manner. Additionally, you have a right to right to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) which mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS 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.

Sincerely,

Handwritten Signature
for

Catrina M. Pavlik-Keenan
FOIA Officer

Enclosure(s): 1 Excel Spreadsheet