U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Sixth Floor
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

November 18, 2024

DAVID MEDEIROS
MuckRock News, DEPT MR176231 263
Huntington Ave
Boston, MA 02115
176231-36562091@requests.muckrock.com

Re: FOIA-2025-00563
DRH:ERH:TATJ

Dear DAVID MEDEIROS:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act request dated and received in this Office on November 18, 2024 seeking records pertaining to yourself.

Your request has been received by the Office of Information Policy (OIP) of the United States Department of Justice, which processes Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) requests for records it maintains as well as records maintained by the Offices of the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Associate Attorney General, Public Affairs, Legislative Affairs, Legal Policy, and Executive Secretariat. OIP also adjudicates administrative appeals of denials of FOIA/PA requests made to the Department. This Office maintains the case files for the initial requests and administrative appeals it processes. For your information, neither this Office nor any of these senior leadership offices of the Department typically maintains records on individuals and, as such, would not maintain the type of records you are seeking.

Please be advised that the FOIA provides a right of access to federal agency records that exist and can be located in federal agency files. The FOIA does not require agencies to conduct research for you, to analyze data, to answer questions, or to create new records in response to a FOIA request. Moreover, the FOIA does not apply to records that are maintained by states, counties, or cities, or by the legislative or judicial branches of the government.

For your information, the FOIA operation for both the Department of Justice and the federal government is decentralized and each Department component and federal entity maintains and handles FOIA requests for its own records. Accordingly, you need to direct your letter to the office(s) you believe have records pertaining to the subject of your request. Additional information regarding the federal government's administration of the FOIA,

including a listing of FOIA contact information, is available at www.foia.gov. Based on the information you have provided, you may wish to direct your request to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Civil Rights Division as the federal entities most likely to maintain the records you are seeking.

Lastly, you have requested records pertaining to yourself. Therefore, should you wish to resubmit your request to this or another Department of Justice component, you will need to verify your identity as required by Department regulation 28 C.F.R. § 16.41(d) (2017). This verification is required in order to protect your privacy and to ensure that private information about you is not disclosed inappropriately to someone else. A Certification of Identity form that may be used for this purpose may be found may be found online at https://www.justice.gov/oip/doj-reference-guide-attachment-d-copies-forms. For your information, this form pertains only to the Department of Justice. Other federal entities may require similar verification of identity.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Valeree Villanueva, for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request at: Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Sixth Floor, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, telephone at 202-514-3642.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (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, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 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 are not satisfied with this Offices determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Sixth Floor, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIPs FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIPs website: https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically submitted within ninety days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." If possible, please provide a copy of your original request and this response letter with your appeal.

Sincerely,

Douglas R. Hibbard
Chief, Initial Request Staff