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

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

December 16, 2024

DAVID MEDEIROS
MuckRock News, DEPT MR177400 263
Huntington Ave
Boston, MA 02115
177400-59839968@requests.muckrock.com

Re: FOIA-2025-01203
DRH:ERH:TATJ

Dear DAVID MEDEIROS:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act request dated and received in this Office on December 13, 2024 seeking records concerning a compliant submitted to the Department of Justice.

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 governments 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 want to direct your request to the Civil Rights Division as the federal entity most likely to maintain the records you are seeking.

To be of assistance, below I have provided the web address for the *Department of Justice Freedom of Information Act Reference Guide* (*Reference Guide*), which provides guidance for making FOIA/PA requests to the Department of Justice. The *Reference Guide*, located on the Department website at http://www.justice.gov/oip/04_3.html, also contains a listing of the Department of Justice components, with a brief description of their functions and the records they maintain, as well as the addresses of their FOIA offices.

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