

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20536



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

September 6, 2023

Ms. Jacqueline Stevens  
601 University Place, 2d floor  
Political Science Department  
Evanston, IL 60208

**RE: Stevens v. ICE 20-cv-2725  
ICE FOIA Case Number 2020-ICLI-00042  
Supplemental Release**

Dear Ms. Stevens:

This letter is a supplemental response to your client's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Your client seeks records relating to the following Freedom of Information Act requests: 2018-ICFO-56530, 2020-ICFO-18634, 2019-ICFO-33429, 2019-ICFO-29171, 2018-ICFO-59138, and 2019-ICFO-24680. ICE has considered your request under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

For this production, ICE is making a discretionary re-release of 199 pages of records. ICE has reviewed the pages and determined that 77 pages will be released in full and portions of the remaining 122 pages will be withheld pursuant to FOIA Exemptions (b)(4), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(E) as described below. The pages will retain their original Bates numbers.

**FOIA Exemption 4** protects trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential. This exemption covers two categories of information in federal agency records: (1) trade secrets; and (2) information that is commercial or financial, obtained from a person (which may include corporations or state governments), and privileged or confidential, which is both customarily and actually treated as private by the submitter of the information. *See Food Marketing Institute v. Argus Leader Media*, 139 S. Ct. 2356, 2362-63 (2019). I have reviewed the responsive documents, the submitter's objections to release, and relevant case law, and I have determined that portions of the responsive records are exempt from disclosure under subsection (b)(4) of the FOIA and must be withheld in order to protect the submitter's proprietary interests.

ICE has applied FOIA Exemptions 6 and 7(C) to protect from disclosure the personally identifiable information of DHS employees and third parties contained within the records.

**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 non-public-facing 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.

**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 note of the strong interests of individuals, whether they are suspects, witnesses, investigators, or individuals performing their official duties in connection with a law enforcement agency, in not being unwarrantably associated with alleged criminal activity or becoming targets for revenge by begrudged individuals. 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 the non-public-facing 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.

**FOIA Exemption 7(E)** protects records compiled for law enforcement purposes, the release of which would disclose techniques and/or 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. I have determined that disclosure of certain law enforcement sensitive information contained within the responsive records could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law. Additionally, the techniques and procedures at issue are not well known to the public.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Assistant United States Attorney Alex Hartzler at [Alex.Hartzler@usdoj.gov](mailto:Alex.Hartzler@usdoj.gov).

Sincerely,

Marcus K. Francis Sr.  
Supervisory Paralegal Specialist

Enclosure: 199 pages

ICE Health Service Corps (IHSC)  
Enforcement Removal Operations (ERO)  
500 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20536  
Phone: 202-732-(b)(6);  
Email: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)@ice.dhs.gov

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
ICE Health Service Corps (IHSC)  
Enforcement Removal Operations (ERO)  
500 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
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The CO has the sole authority to award, modify or terminate contracts and obligate Government funds. The CO is responsible for ensuring performance of all necessary actions for effective contracting, ensuring compliance with the terms of the contract, and safeguarding the interest of the United States in its contractual relationships.

## **G-2. APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTING OFFICER'S REPRESENTATIVE.**

The Contracting Officer shall designate and authorize, in writing and in accordance with agency procedures, a contracting officer's representative (COR) on all contracts and orders other than those that are firm-fixed price, and for firm-fixed-price contracts and **orders as appropriate**. The Contracting Officer shall designate and authorize a COR as early as practicable after the nomination.

A COR—

- (1) Shall be a Government employee, unless otherwise authorized in agency regulations;
- (2) Shall be certified and maintain certification in accordance with the current Office of Management and Budget memorandum on the Federal Acquisition Certification for Contracting Officer Representatives (FAC-COR) guidance, or for DoD, in accordance with the current applicable DoD policy guidance;
- (3) Shall be qualified by training and experience commensurate with the responsibilities to be delegated in accordance with agency procedures;
- (4) May not be delegated responsibility to perform functions that have been delegated under 42.202 to a contract administration office, but may be assigned some duties at 42.302 by the contracting officer;
- (5) Has no authority to make any commitments or changes that affect price, quality, quantity, delivery, or other terms and conditions of the contract nor in any way direct the contractor or its