



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Board of Veterans' Appeals
Washington DC 20420

In Reply Refer To:
19-03907-F

March 5, 2019

Mr. Heart Wood
American Oversight
Via Email foia@americanoversight.org

Dear Mr. Wood,

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated January 28, 2019, which was received by the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) on February 7, 2019. Your request sought all records reflecting costs reimbursed or paid directly by the BVA for any reimbursable expenses attributable to any political appointee for the timeframe of 12/21/2018 to 1/25/2019. You indicated that payments or reimbursements include any payments associated with travel (including the travel of any staff or security detail assigned to a political appointee), long-term housing, the cost of government transportation, individual airfare for government employees and/or their spouses, lodging, meals, per diem payments, rental vehicles, overtime payments, payments made via government-issued charge cards or travel cards, or any other reimbursable expenses.

We conducted a reasonable search within the BVA Financial Management Division for records that would be responsive to your request. Unfortunately, we were unable to identify or locate any responsive records.

If you are unsatisfied with this response, please know that as part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services. Similarly, as part of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, VA established a FOIA Public Liaison to offer mediation services. Both OGIS and the VA Public Liaison will assist in resolving disputes between FOIA requesters and VA as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS or the VA FOIA Public Liaison does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS or the VA Public Liaison in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services	E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
National Archives and Records Administration	Telephone: 202-741-5770
Room 2510	Facsimile: 202-741-5769
8601 Adelphi Road	Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
College Park, MD 20740-6001	

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VA FOIA Public Liaison
John Buck
Director, VA FOIA Service
810 Vermont Avenue, NW (005R1C)
Washington, DC 20420

E-mail: vacofoiaservice@va.gov
Telephone: 1-877-750-3642
Facsimile: 202-632-7581

While an adequate search was conducted, you may appeal by writing to the Chief Counsel, Information Law Group (024), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Your appeal must be received within 90 calendar days of the date of this letter. 5 U.S.C.A. § (a) 6 (A) (i) (III) (aa). Please state clearly why you disagree with the determination of this office.

Sincerely,

Ryan McDonald

for Margaret L. Peak
FOIA/Privacy Officer