



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of Enterprise Integration

June 15, 2020

VIA EMAIL: foia@americanoversight.org

Mr. Austin Evers

American Oversight

1030 15th Street, NW, Suite 8255

Washington, DC 20005

FOIA Request Number: 20-04685-F

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter acknowledges receipt and is the initial agency decision regarding your February 14, 2019, electronic Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, request to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which was referred in part to the Office of Enterprise Integration (OEI) and assigned FOIA tracking number **20-04685-F**. For the reasons outlined below, we are providing you with a “no records” response.

Initial Request

On February 14, 2019, you submitted a FOIA request for:

“All records reflecting communications (including email messages, email attachments, calendar invitations, memoranda or background material for meetings, or handwritten or typed notes taken during meetings) between any political appointees* at your agency and any employee or representative of Ballard Partners, including, but not limited to, any of the following individuals:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| a) Any individual using an email address ending in ballardfl.com, | j) Raj Shah, |
| b) Brian Ballard, | k) Pam Bondi, |
| c) Sylvester Lukis, | l) Robert Wexler, |
| d) Susan "Susie" Wiles, | m) Jose Felix Diaz, |
| e) Dan McFaul, | n) Katherine San Pedro, |
| f) Rebecca Benn, | o) Karl Bowers, |
| g) Justin Sayfie, | p) Sara Pennington, |
| h) James "Jamie" Rubin, | q) Hannah Walters, or |
| i) Otto Reich, | r) Sara Nuvy." |

On March 17, 2019, the VA Central Office (VACO) FOIA Service referred your request in part to OEI. On June 26, 2019, VACO FOIA Service sent you a clarification letter requesting additional information to process your request and advised that your request will be administratively closed if you do not respond within 30 days.

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Mr. Evers

To date, we have not received a response from you. In light of the foregoing, we are treating your request as closed and will take no further action on this case unless we hear otherwise from you.

Mediation and Appeal Rights

Please be advised that you may appeal this decision to:

Office of the General Counsel (024)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420
Email: ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov

If you should choose to file an appeal, your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted no later than ninety (90) calendar days from the date of this letter. Please include a copy of this letter with your written appeal and clearly state why you disagree with the determinations set forth in this response.

In addition to filing an appeal with the Office of General Counsel regarding this determination, you may also seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services regarding your FOIA request from VA's FOIA Public Liaison and or Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) as provided below:

VA FOIA Public Liaison:
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

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
Room 2510
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Facsimile: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Sincerely,


Jennifer Jessup
Office of Enterprise Integration