



**Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Inspector General
Washington, DC 20420**



March 14, 2019

Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is in response to your February 14, 2019 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request in which you asked for communications between any political appointees and any employee or representative of Ballard Partners. That portion of your request that pertains to the VA Inspector General (VA OIG) was forwarded by the VA Central Office FOIA Service and received in this office on March 7, 2019. We assigned it FOIA Tracking Number 19-00248-FOIA. Please refer to this number whenever communicating with VA about this VA OIG response your request.

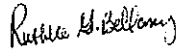
We searched VA OIG records and found no records responsive to your request.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You may appeal the determination made in this response to: Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General, Office of Counselor (50C), 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, or by email to: VAOIGFOIA-Appeals@va.gov, or by fax to: (202) 495-5859. If you should choose to make an appeal, your appeal must be sent no later than ninety (90) calendar days after the date of this letter. Your appeal must include the assigned FOIA Tracking Number and any reason(s) why you believe the response was in error. If you choose to appeal only a portion of the determination, you must specify which part of the determination you are appealing.

The appeal should include a copy of the request and VA's response. The appeal should be marked, or subject-titled, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,



Ruthlee G. Bellamy

Supervisory Government Information Specialist
VA OIG Release of Information Office