



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF OPERATIONS SECURITY AND PREPAREDNESS
OFFICE OF SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON DC 20420

April 10, 2019

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

Re: FOIA #19-04682-F

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is in response to your February 14, 2019, FOIA request to the Department of Veterans Affairs requesting "All records reflecting communications (including email messages, email attachments, calendar invitation, 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,
- b) Brian Ballard,
- c) Sylvester Lukis,
- d) Susan "Susie" Wiles,
- e) Dan McFaul,
- f) Rebecca Benn,
- g) Justin Sayfie,
- h) James "Jamie" Rubin,
- i) Otto Reich,
- j) Raj Shah,
- k) Pam Bondi,
- l) Robert Wexler,
- m) Jose Felix Diaz,
- n) Katherine San Pedro,
- o) Karl Bowers,
- p) Sara Pennington,
- q) Hannah Walters, or
- r) Sara Nuvy"

This request was assigned to the Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness on March 7, 2019. The records search has now been completed; however, no records were found that match those of your request.

In the event you would wish to appeal this determination, please send the appeal to the Office of General Counsel within ninety (90) calendar days of the date of this letter to:

Office of General Counsel (OGC/024)
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC, 20420
Email to ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov.
Fax: (202-273-6388)

As an alternative to an appeal, you may contact VA FOIA Public Liaison, which was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and VA. Using this method does not affect your right to appeal. You may contact:

VA FOIA Public Liaison
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20420.
Email: vafoiaservice@va.gov,
Phone: (877) 750-3642
Fax: (202) 632-7581

Also, the office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between persons making requests and administrative agencies as a nonexclusive alternative to litigation and, at the discretion of the OGIS, may issue advisory options if mediation has not resolved the dispute. The OGIS is at:

National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
Email: ogis@nara.gov
Phone: (877) 684-6448
Fax: (202) 741-5769.

Sincerely



Tanya Al-Khateeb
Program Analyst
Operations, Security, and Preparedness
Office of Security and Law Enforcement