



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-3000

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

September 16, 2025

American Oversight
1030 15th Street, NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005
foia@americanoversight.org

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request
FOIA Request No.: 19-FI-HQ-00755

Dear American Oversight:

This letter is the second interim response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated and received on March 13, 2019, in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's FOIA Office. You requested copies of the following:

All email communications, including email attachments and calendar invitations, between: (1) the agency officials Ben Carson and Richard Youngblood or any person communicating on their behalf, such as schedulers or assistants, and (2) Virginia "Ginni" Thomas or any person communicating on her behalf, including but not limited to Crystal Clayton.

The keywords "Virginia Thomas", "Virginia", "Thomas", "Ginni Thomas", "Ginni" and "Crystal", "Clayton" and "Crystal Clayton" were searched, for the time frames that you requested for each custodian. In addition, searches were conducted for Aida N. Rodriguez, Benjamin E. Demarzo, Jonathan A. McCall, and Kelsie J. Wendelberger.

The Department conducted an electronic search of the records of the custodians identified in your request. The eDiscovery search located 279,691 potentially responsive records. For our first interim response dated March 28, 2024, we reviewed 247,757 pages and determined that none of them were responsive.

For this second interim response, the Department reviewed an additional 6,136 pages and again determined that none of them were responsive.

The Department is continuing to review and process the 25,798 potentially responsive pages that remain. We will provide you with additional responses as soon as they are reviewed and processed.

I am the official responsible for this determination based on an eDiscovery search of the requested individuals' records. You may appeal this determination within 90 days from the date of this letter. If you decide to appeal, your appeal should include copies of your original request and this response, as well as a discussion of the reasons supporting the appeal. The envelope should be plainly marked to indicate that it contains a FOIA appeal and addressed to:

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Attn: FOIA Appeals
Attn: The Associate General Counsel for Litigation
Office of Litigation
451 Seventh Street, SW, Suite 10258
Washington, DC 20410
Telephone: (202) 402-4077

You may also submit your appeal online at: HUDFOIAappeals@hud.gov

The FOIA Public Liaison is responsible for increasing transparency, understanding the status of requests, and resolving disputes between you and the agency. If you need assistance in any of these matters, please send an email to FOIA@hud.gov.

In addition, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

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

For your information, your FOIA request, including your identity and any information made available, is releasable to the public under subsequent FOIA requests. In responding to these requests, the Department does not release personal information, such as home address, telephone number, or Social Security number, all of which are protected from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 6.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Howard Rosenberg at howard.w.rosenberg@hud.gov. Thank you for your interest in the Department's programs and policies.

Sincerely,

ADRIANE PARIS

Digitally signed by ADRIANE
PARIS
Date: 2025.09.16 11:10:28 -04'00'

Adriane Paris
Chief, FOIA Branch
HUD FOIA Office