



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001

July 29, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act, Title 5, United States Code, Sections 552, request submitted July 9, 2019 to the U.S. Census Bureau's FOIA Office. We received your request in this office on July 9, 2019. We have assigned to it tracking number DOC-CEN-2019-001731 and are responding under the FOIA to your request for:

All e-mail communications (including e-mail messages, e-mail attachments, and calendar invitations) from January 1, 2014 to June 2020 between (1) the Census Bureau officials and employees specified below and (2) Thomas "Tom" Hofeller (including *but not limited to* the email addresses celticheal@aol.com and thofeller@rnchq.org) or A. Mark Neuman.

- i. Director Steven Dillingham
- ii. Deputy Director Ron Jarmin
- iii. Former Deputy Director Enrique Lamas
- iv. Chief of Staff Christa Jones
- v. Senior Advisor, Kevin Quinley

In light of recent press reporting that Christa Jones communicated with Thomas Hofeller using both official government email as well as a personal email account (xtadjones@hotmail.com), American Oversight requests that the Census Bureau search both Jones' official and personal e-mail accounts—and any others that Jones may have used—for responsive records.

Enclosed are copies of eleven (11) records that are responsive to your request 11 pages with withholding determinations noted.

We withheld portions of the documents pursuant to FOIA Exemption 6, Title 5 United States Code, Section 552(b)(6). Exemption 6 protects from disclosure information about individuals, the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Based on the above information, this constitutes a partial denial of your request. You have the right to appeal this partial denial of the FOIA and Privacy Act request. An appeal must be received within 90 calendar days of the date of this response letter. Address your appeal to the following office:

Assistant General Counsel for Employment, Litigation, and Information
Room 5896
U.S. Department of Commerce,
14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

An appeal may also be sent by e-mail to FOIAAppeals@doc.gov, or by FOIAonline, if you have an account in FOIAonline, at <https://foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home>. The appeal should include a copy of the original request and initial denial, if any. All appeals should include a statement of the reasons why the records requested should be made available and why the adverse determination was in error. The appeal letter, the envelope and the e-mail subject line should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

The e-mail, FOIAonline, and Office are monitored only on working days during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday). FOIA appeals posted to the e-mail box, FOIAonline, or Office after normal business hours will be deemed received on the next normal business day. If the 90th calendar day for submitting an appeal falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal public holiday, an appeal received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, the next business day will be deemed timely.

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, Maryland 20740-6001
e-mail at ogis@nara.gov
telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1 877-684-6448
facsimile at 202-741-5769**

Mr. Austin Evers, DOC-CEN-2019-001731

July 29, 2021

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Please contact Sarabeth Rodriguez or Paul Reyes of my staff, by telephone at 301-763-2127 or by e-mail at census.efoia@census.gov if you have any questions regarding your request.

Sincerely,

Vernon Curry

Vernon E. Curry, PMP, CIPP/G

Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Officer

Chief, Freedom of Information Act Office

Enclosure

Enclosure

From: [A M Neuman](#)
To: [Christa D Jones \(CENSUS/DEPDIR FED\)](#)
Subject: A Sabbath sermon from Central Synagogue of interest to you.
Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:11:08 AM

https://youtu.be/UmuVR__Osp0

From: [A M Neuman](#)
To: [Christa D Jones \(CENSUS/DEPDIR FED\)](#)
Subject: Chelsea Decaminada – International Program Specialist, Commercial Law Development Program – U.S.
Department of Commerce | LinkedIn
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 5:49:53 PM

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/chelseadecaminada/de>

From: [Ron S Jarmin \(CENSUS/ADEP FED\)](#)
To: (b)(6)
Cc: [Katherine Dodson Hancher \(CENSUS/DEPDIR FED\)](#)
Subject: Meeting request from Secretary Ross
Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 5:57:54 PM

Mark,

Good afternoon,

I'm reaching out to you on behalf of Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. As you are aware, on December 18, 2017, the U.S. Department of Justice sent a letter to the U.S. Census Bureau requesting to reinstate the citizenship question on the 2020 Census questionnaire. The Commerce Department is required by law to submit the proposed final list of questions to Congress by March 31, 2018, therefore Secretary Ross would like to take the opportunity to hear first-hand stakeholder views on this matter before any decision is made.

Given your interest and your past leadership at the Census Bureau, we would like to recommend that Secretary Ross talk with you, so we are hoping you would be available for brief phone call from the Secretary tomorrow, Thursday , March 15th during the hour from 3:15 – 4:15 PM. If this is not convenient, we will try to seek another time, schedule permitting.

Thank you.

Ron Jarmin, PhD.

Associate Director for Economic Programs, and
Performing the Non-Exclusive Functions and Duties of the Director
U.S. Census Bureau
Office 301.763.1858, Ron.S.Jarmin@census.gov
census.gov Connect with us on [Social Media](#)

From: [Ron S Jarmin \(CENSUS/ADEP FED\)](#)
To: (b)(6)
Cc: [Katherine Dodson Hancher \(CENSUS/DEPDIR FED\)](#)
Bcc: [Christa Jones \(CENSUS/ADEP FED\)](#)
Subject: Meeting request from Secretary Ross
Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 5:57:52 PM

Mark,

Good afternoon,

I'm reaching out to you on behalf of Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. As you are aware, on December 18, 2017, the U.S. Department of Justice sent a letter to the U.S. Census Bureau requesting to reinstate the citizenship question on the 2020 Census questionnaire. The Commerce Department is required by law to submit the proposed final list of questions to Congress by March 31, 2018, therefore Secretary Ross would like to take the opportunity to hear first-hand stakeholder views on this matter before any decision is made.

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[census.gov](https://www.census.gov) Connect with us on [Social Media](#)

From: [A M Neuman](#)
To: [Christa Jones \(CENSUS/ADEP FED\)](#)
Subject: Question from Mark Neuman
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 12:00:27 PM

Hi Christa:

Do you happen to have the contact information for Arturo Vargas? You will recall that I served with him on the 2010 Census Advisory Committee until Spring of 2009.

Thank you.

Congratulations on your return to the Census Bureau.

Warm Regards, Mark Neuman

A. Mark Neuman

From: Christa.D.Jones@census.gov
To: [A M Neuman](#)
Subject: Re: Chelsea Decaminada – International Program Specialist, Commercial Law Development Program – U.S. Department of Commerce | LinkedIn
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 6:55:27 PM

I actually know who she was...didn't know her or realize it was her. Very sad.

> On May 6, 2019, at 3:49 PM, A M Neuman <amarkneu@aol.com> wrote:

>

>

> <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chelseadecaminada/de>

From: [Christa D Jones \(CENSUS/DEPDIR FED\)](#)
To: [A M Neuman](#)
Subject: Re: Chelsea Decaminada – International Program Specialist, Commercial Law Development Program – U.S. Department of Commerce | LinkedIn
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 6:55:28 PM

I actually know who she was...didn't know her or realize it was her. Very sad.

> On May 6, 2019, at 3:49 PM, A M Neuman <amarkneu@aol.com> wrote:
>
>
> <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chelseadecaminada/de>

From: [A Mark Neuman](#)
To: [Ron S Jarmin \(CENSUS/ADEP FED\)](#)
Cc: [Katherine Dodson Hancher \(CENSUS/DEPDIR FED\)](#)
Subject: Re: Meeting request from Secretary Ross
Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 6:06:31 PM

Thanks for your message.

To discuss a sensitive policy matter such as the one you describe, I would prefer to do a meeting in person rather than on the phone. I am in Washington and available to come to him at that time.

Thank you. A. M. Neuman

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 14, 2018, at 5:57 PM, Ron S Jarmin (CENSUS/ADEP FED)
<Ron.S.Jarmin@census.gov> wrote:

Mark,

Good afternoon,

I'm reaching out to you on behalf of Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. As you are aware, on December 18, 2017, the U.S. Department of Justice sent a letter to the U.S. Census Bureau requesting to reinstate the citizenship question on the 2020 Census questionnaire. The Commerce Department is required by law to submit the proposed final list of questions to Congress by March 31, 2018, therefore Secretary Ross would like to take the opportunity to hear first-hand stakeholder views on this matter before any decision is made.

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Thank you.

Ron Jarmin, PhD.

Associate Director for Economic Programs, and
Performing the Non-Exclusive Functions and Duties of the Director
U.S. Census Bureau
Office 301.763.1858, Ron.S.Jarmin@census.gov

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From: [Christa Jones \(CENSUS/ADEP FED\)](#)
To: [A M Neuman](#)
Subject: Re: Question from Mark Neuman
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 12:42:10 PM

Mark,

Thanks for your note. I do have Arturo's contact information.

 (b)(6)

email: avargas@naleo.org

Hope all is well,

Christa

From: A M Neuman  (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 12:00:18 PM
To: Christa Jones (CENSUS/ADEP FED)
Subject: Question from Mark Neuman

Hi Christa:

Do you happen to have the contact information for Arturo Vargas? You will recall that I served with him on the 2010 Census Advisory Committee until Spring of 2009.

Thank you.

Congratulations on your return to the Census Bureau.

Warm Regards, Mark Neuman

A. Mark Neuman

From: A.M. Neuman
To: Christa D. Jones (CENSUS/DEPDOR FED)
Subject: Sad news.
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:03:23 PM



COMMERCE NEWS

U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Office of the Secretary
www.commerce.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, May 6, 2019

News Media Contact:
Office of Public Affairs, [202-482-4883](tel:202-482-4883)

Statement from Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross on the Passing of Chelsea Decaminada

On May 4, 2019, Chelsea Decaminada passed away as a result of injuries sustained during the April 21st terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, where she was on assignment. It was our great hope that Chelsea would recover from her injuries. My prayers are with Chelsea's family during this difficult time.

Chelsea was a talented International Program Specialist in our Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) of the Office of the General Counsel. Chelsea devoted her life to public service, and her dedication and spirit were a model for all of us at Commerce. She served her country with distinction. As we mourn her loss, we must continue to fight terrorism around the world.

From: [Ron S Jarmin \(CENSUS/ADEP FED\)](#)
To: [A Mark Neuman](#)
Subject: Sec Ross Call
Date: Thursday, March 15, 2018 1:12:24 PM

Mark,

I understand that due to scheduling constraints, the Secretary will need to reschedule this afternoon's call.

Thanks

Ron

Sent from my iPhone