



Homeland
Security

August 20, 2026

SENT VIA E-MAIL TO: [REDACTED]

Kayvan Farchadi
CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON
PO Box 14596
Washington, DC 20044

Re: CREW v. DHS, (25-cv-03703) (2026-HQLI-00003)

Dear Kayvan Farchadi:

This is an interim response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Privacy Office, dated April 9, 2025.

For this production, DHS processed 10 pages of documents of which three pages are released in full, four pages are withheld in part, and three pages are withheld in full pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(5) and (b)(6). Please be advised we have considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing records and applying FOIA exemptions.

FOIA Exemption 5 protects from disclosure those inter- or intra-agency documents that are normally privileged in the civil discovery context. The three most frequently invoked privileges are the deliberative process privilege, the attorney work-product privilege, and the attorney-client privilege. After carefully reviewing the responsive documents, DHS is withholding this information that if released, would reveal information protected by one of the following privileges:

Deliberative Process Privilege - The deliberative process privilege protects the integrity of the deliberative or decision-making processes within the agency by exempting from mandatory disclosure opinions, conclusions, and recommendations included within inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters. The release of this internal information would discourage the expression of candid opinions and inhibit the free and frank exchange of information among agency personnel.

FOIA Exemption 6 protects from disclosure personnel or medical files and similar files the release of which would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. This requires a balancing of the public's right to discourse against the individual's right to privacy. The types of documents and/or information that DHS has withheld may consist of names. The privacy interests of the individuals in the records you have requested outweigh any minimal public interest in disclosure of the information. Any private interest you may have in that information does not factor into the aforementioned balancing test.

The 10 pages provided are Bates stamped DHS-001-03703-000001 through DHS-001-03703-000010.

If you have any questions regarding this release, please contact Assistant U. S. Attorney, Thomas Duffey, U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Columbia, by email at Thomas.Duffey@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Meekia Windham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Meekia Windham
Acting Senior Director, FOIA Litigation, Appeals,
Policy and Training

Enclosure: 10 pages