



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

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Anne L. Weismann, Esq.
Chief FOIA Counsel
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics
in Washington
455 Massachusetts Ave., NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20001

APR - 9 2019

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request
FOIA Control No.: 17-FI-HQ-02149

Dear Ms. Weismann:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated September 20, 2017. Your request was received on September 21, 2017. You asked for copies of all records concerning authorization for and the costs of Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson's use of non-commercial aircraft for any official travel since his confirmation on March 2, 2017, to include all such authorizations Secretary Carson or anyone acting on behalf of Secretary Carson sought, whether or not such authorization was granted. Additionally, you asked for records sufficient to show the amount of money budgeted for Secretary Carson's travel whether on a yearly or fiscal year basis, for 2017 and 2018, and the amount of budgeted for the Secretary's travel for 2016.

Enclosed is a copy of a document sufficient to show the amount of money budgeted for the Office of the Secretary during fiscal years 2016-2018. Please note the Executive Offices at HUD do not formulate an individual travel budget for the Secretary, rather they create an overall travel budget for the Office of the Secretary which covers travel for all employees in that office. However, the individual travel cost for both Secretaries covering fiscal years 2016-2018 are being provided in the document.

Secretary Carson has neither used nor sought authorization for any non-commercial aircraft for any official travel since his confirmation on March 2, 2017.

I am the official responsible for this determination based on information provided by the Department's Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Office of the Secretary. 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 be addressed to:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Attention: FOIA Appeals
Office of Ethics, Appeals and Law Division
Office of General Counsel
451 Seventh Street, SW, Suite 2130
Washington, DC 20410

Telephone: (202) 708-3815

You may also submit your appeal online at:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/foia/foiaappeals.

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

Telephone: 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448

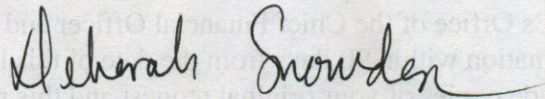
FAX: 202-741-5769

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 your request, you may contact Eugene McGirt at (202) 402-4315. Thank you for your interest in the Department's programs and policies.

Sincerely,



Deborah R. Snowden
Deputy Chief FOIA Officer
Office of the Executive Secretariat

Enclosures