

# Exhibit

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October 16, 2020

Joey Gonzalez  
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Alexis R. Graves  
Departmental FOIA Officer  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
South Building Room 4104  
Washington, DC 20250-0706  
Via Email: [USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov](mailto:USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov)

Dear FOIA Officer:

According to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request copies of the following documents:

- 1. From July 1, 2020 until the date of this request please provide all communications to and from Lorna Drennen related to the undersigned, Joey D. Gonzalez Ramos.**
- 2. From January 2013 until the date of this request please provide:**
  - a. All training programs developed and/or delivered by former ARS's labor relations officer, Kathleen Hall ("Kathy Hall");**
  - b. Number of workplace misconduct and/or discrimination investigation(s) conducted by Kathy Hall and the locations where these investigations were conducted;**
  - c. Kathy Hall's credentials as an agency's investigator;**
  - d. Any training taken by Kathy Hall to qualify as a workplace misconduct or discrimination investigator;**
  - e. Any "investigative plan" developed by Kathy Hall;**
  - f. Number of "Climate Assessment(s)" developed and/or conducted by Kathy Hall and the locations in which these Climate Assessments were conducted;**
  - g. Documentation, questionnaires, statistical charts or instructions of the Climate Assessment(s) developed and/or conducted by Kathy Hall.**
- 3. Regarding Andre Nelson ("Nelson"), IT Specialist at the ARS Miami:**
  - a. Name and position of Nelson's first and second-line supervisor;**

- b. Nelson's position description;**
  - c. Nelson's job application;**
  - d. Nelson position number or identifier.**
- 4. Number of IT Specialist(s) currently allocated for the ARS location in Miami.**
- 5. From September 18, 2020 until the date of this request, please provide all communications to and from Hillary Clark regarding the undersigned, Joey D. Gonzalez Ramos.**

This request is not made for commercial purposes. If any of these documents do not exist or are unavailable, I am requesting that you state this in your response. Provide this information in electronic format if possible. I agree to pay reasonable duplication fees for the processing of this request in an amount not to exceed \$40.

I understand that once my request is processed, I am committed to pay this amount. If there are any charges for this request above the amount I agreed to pay, please include an itemized statement.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the Act. Please release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I would appreciate your communicating with me by email or telephone, preferably email.

Sincerely,



Joey Gonzalez

**From:** [Mantzaris, Nicholas \(CTR\) - OGC, Washington, DC](mailto:Mantzaris, Nicholas (CTR) - OGC, Washington, DC)  
**To:** [joey@joeygonzalezlaw.com](mailto:joey@joeygonzalezlaw.com)  
**Cc:** [USDAFOIA - OCIO](#)  
**Subject:** USDA FOIA No. 2021-REE-00354-F Acknowledgment  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2020 12:09:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[2021-REE-00354-F Request.pdf](#)  
[USDA FOIA Fee Schedule.pdf](#)

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Mr. Gonzalez:

This email acknowledges receipt of your attached Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Departmental FOIA Office (DFO). Your request was received by this office on October 16, 2020.

The DFO is under the purview of the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) and serves as the focal point for USDA's FOIA program. It provides coordination and ensures agency-wide compliance with the FOIA. Additionally, the DFO processes requests and appeals on behalf of the Office of the Secretary (OSEC), the Under Secretaries, USDA's staff offices, and the Research, Education and Economics and Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs mission areas.

The FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i), requires USDA to make a determination in response to a FOIA request within 20 business days from its date of receipt. In unusual circumstances, the Federal agency time limit may be extended by 10 business days as stated in 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B). If your request seeks numerous records that will necessitate a wide-ranging search, including searches with components and possible consultations with components that have a substantial interest in the determination of this request, USDA will invoke a 10 business day extension for determination of your request. You have the option to narrow the scope of your request to limit the number of potentially responsive records.

Due to the increasing number of FOIA requests received by this office, we may encounter some delay in processing your request. Pursuant to USDA FOIA Regulations, Title 7 CFR §1.6(a), the USDA processes FOIA requests according to their order of receipt.

Provisions of the FOIA allow USDA to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. For purposes of fee assessment, you were categorized as a "all other" requester, pursuant to 7 CFR Appendix A to Subpart A of Part 1, Section (2)(b)(5)(i). For your review and information, a copy of the USDA FOIA Fee Schedule is attached. In accordance with 7 CFR Appendix A to Subpart A of Part 1, Section 3(b), your fees shall be waived where the amount of the fee is \$25.00 or less.

A search will be conducted for records responsive to your request. If any responsive records are located, they will be reviewed for determination of releasability. Please be assured that a FOIA analyst will respond to your request as expeditiously as possible. We appreciate your patience as we proceed with your request.

Your request has been assigned **FOIA Case No. 2021-REE-00354-F** Please refer to this case number in any future correspondence. If you have any questions regarding the processing of this request, please contact Mr. Nicholas Mantzaris at (202) 694-5260- or electronically at [Nicholas.Mantzaris@usda.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Mantzaris@usda.gov) or [USDAFOIA@usda.gov](mailto:USDAFOIA@usda.gov). For additional information regarding USDA FOIA regulations and process, please refer to the information available on-line at [www.dm.usda.gov/foia](http://www.dm.usda.gov/foia).

We appreciate the opportunity to assist you.

Sincerely,

USDA Departmental FOIA Office

Nicholas Mantzaris  
FOIA Analyst - Contractor



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U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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