

EXHIBIT 9

Sameer Ahmed

6 Everett St.
Cambridge, MA, 02138

11/04/2020

CBP-2021-008315

Dear Sameer Ahmed:

This notice acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) received on 10/21/2020. Please use the following unique FOIA tracking number CBP-2021-008315 to track the status of your request. If you have not already done so, you must create a FOIAonline account at <https://foiaonline.gov>. This is the only method available to check the status of your pending FOIA request.

Provisions of the Act allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. We shall charge you for records in accordance with the DHS FOIA regulations outlined on the DHS website, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/11/22/2016-28095/freedom-of-information-act-regulations>. By submitting your request, you have agreed to pay up to \$25.00 in applicable processing fees, if any fees associated with your request exceed this amount, CBP shall contact you; however, the first 100 pages are free.

Due to the increasing number of FOIA requests received by this office, we may encounter some delay in processing your request. Consistent with 6 C.F.R. Part 5 §5.5(a) of the DHS FOIA regulations, CBP processes FOIA requests according to their order of receipt. Although CBP's goal is to respond within 20 business days of receipt of your request, FOIA does permit a 10-day extension of this time period in certain circumstances pursuant to 6 C.F.R. Part 5 §5.5(c). [As your request seeks documents that will require a thorough and wide-ranging search, CBP will invoke a 10-day extension for your request pursuant to 6 C.F.R. Part 5 §5.5(c). If you would like to narrow the scope of your request, please contact our office. We will make every effort to comply with your request in a timely manner.] **OR** [As your request seeks a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records, CBP will invoke a 10-day extension for your request pursuant to 6 C.F.R. Part 5 §5.5(c). If you would like to narrow the scope of your request, please contact our office. We will make every effort to comply with your request in a timely manner.] **OR** [As the subject matter of your request is of substantial interest to two or more components of CBP or of substantial interest to another agency, we will need to consult with those entities before we issue a final response. Due to these unusual circumstances, CBP will invoke a 10-day extension for your request pursuant to 6 C.F.R. Part 5 §5.5(c). If you would like to narrow the scope of your request, please contact our office. We will make every effort to comply with your request in a timely manner.]

CBP's FOIA Division is working hard to reduce the amount of time necessary to respond to FOIA requests. We truly appreciate your continued patience.

For additional information please consult CBP FOIA website please click on [FOIA Act Resources](https://www.cbp.gov/site-policy-notices/foia) or visit <http://www.cbp.gov/site-policy-notices/foia>.

Sincerely,

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

