

Exhibit 13



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Sixth Floor
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

Lisa Himes, Esq.
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Washington, D.C. 20005

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November 4, 2020

Appeal Nos. DOJ-AP-2020-

Re: 000228 & DOJ-AP-2020-
000229

Request Nos. 1443229
& 1443233

MWH:RNB

VIA: Email

Dear Lisa Himes:

You appealed on behalf of your client, Tim Blixseth, from the action of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on your client's Freedom of Information Act request for access to records concerning Tim Blixseth, Timothy Blixseth, Blixseth, Blixseth Group, Inc., and BGI from January 1, 2013, through the present. I note that your appeal concerns the adequacy of the FBI's search.

After carefully considering your appeal, I am affirming the FBI's action on your client's requests. The FBI informed you that it could locate no responsive records subject to the FOIA in its files. The FBI searched its automated indices for all of the subjects of your client's request, Tim Blixseth, Timothy Blixseth, Blixseth, Blixseth Group, Inc., and BGI. No responsive records were located. I have determined that the FBI's actions were correct and that it conducted an adequate, reasonable searches for such records.

To the extent that you are seeking a cross-reference search, please be advised that you need to provide information sufficient to enable the FBI to determine with certainty that any cross-references it locates are identifiable to the subject of your request. This information may include the following:

- 1) the specific circumstances in which the subject of your request had contact with the FBI;
- 2) the date(s) of such contact;
- 3) the location(s) of such contact;
- 4) the full name (first, middle, and last) as well as any prior names or aliases used by the subject of your request;
- 5) Social Security number, date of birth, place of birth, and home address of

- the subject of your request;
- 6) names of associates of the subject of your request the mention of whom might aid in the identification of responsive records; and
 - 7) other references to the subject of your request in media, such as books, articles, websites, etc.

You should provide this information to the FBI directly. While the FBI will make every effort to identify responsive cross references using any additional information that you provide, please note that the FBI may not be able to successfully identify such records even with additional information. You may appeal any future adverse determination made by the FBI.

Please be advised that this Office's decision was made only after a full review of these matters. Your appeal was assigned to an attorney with this Office who thoroughly reviewed and analyzed your appeal, your client's underlying requests, and the action of the in response to your client's requests.

If your client is dissatisfied with my action on your appeal, the FOIA permits your client to file a lawsuit in federal district court in accordance with 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(4)(B).

For your information, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your client's right to pursue litigation. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. If you have any questions regarding the action this Office has taken on your appeal, you may contact this Office's FOIA Public Liaison for your appeal. Specifically, you may speak with the undersigned agency official by calling (202) 514-3642.

Sincerely,



X

Matthew Hurd
Acting Chief, Administrative Appeals Staff