

EXHIBIT 9



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

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

Florence Patti, Esq.
Indiana Federal Community Defenders
Suite 3200
111 Monument Circle
Indianapolis, IN 46204
italia_patti@fd.org

February 18, 2021

Re: Appeal No. A-2021-00422
Request No. 2020USMS35431
CDT:AMF

VIA: Email

Dear Florence Patti:

You appealed from the action of the United States Marshals Service (USMS) on your Freedom of Information Act request for access to records concerning records on any investigations conducted after January 1, 2003, of MDC Los Angeles staff members allegedly engaged in drug trafficking. I note that your appeal concerns the adequacy of USMS's search.

After carefully considering your appeal, I am affirming USMS's action on your request. USMS informed you that it could locate no responsive records subject to the FOIA in its files. I have determined that USMS's action was correct and that it conducted an adequate, reasonable search for such records.

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

If you are dissatisfied with my action on your appeal, the FOIA permits you 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 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