

Exhibit L

From: "foia-obim@hq.dhs.gov" <foia-obim@hq.dhs.gov>

Date: Friday, September 3, 2021 at 3:55 PM

To: Melissa Chua <mchua@nylag.org>

Subject: Department of Homeland Security FOIA 2021-HQAP-00227 Acknowledgment

Good afternoon,

Attached is our acknowledgment of your DHS FOIA request. If you need to contact this office again concerning your request, please provide the DHS reference number. This will enable us to quickly retrieve the information you are seeking and reduce our response time. This office can be reached at 866-431-0486.

Regards,

DHS Privacy Office
Disclosure & FOIA Program
STOP 0655
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20528-0655
Telephone: 1-866-431-0486 or 202-343-1743
Fax: 202-343-4011
Visit our [FOIA website](#)



Homeland
Security

September 3, 2021

Melissa Chua
NYLAG
7 Hanover Square, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10004

Re: **DHS Appeal Number 2021-HQAP-00227**
FOIA Request Number 2021-HQFO-00013

Dear Ms. Chua:

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has received your appeal of the response by the Office of the Chief Privacy Officer, PRIV to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request concerning The adequacy of the search provided by I&A and the failures of ICE, CBP, USSS and FPS to timely respond and/or produce records responsive to the request. On behalf of the Deputy Associate General Counsel for General Law, we acknowledge your appeal and are assigning it number **2021-HQAP-00227** for tracking purposes. Please reference this number in any future communications about your appeal.

A high number of FOIA requests have been received by the Department. Accordingly, we have adopted the court-sanctioned practice of generally handling backlogged appeals on a first-in, first-out basis.¹ While we will make every effort to process your appeal on a timely basis, there may be some delay in resolving this matter.

The status of your appeal is now available online and can be accessed at: <https://foiarequest.dhs.gov/app/CheckStatus.aspx>, by using the appeal number. Status information is updated daily. Alternatively, you can download the DHS eFOIA Mobile App, the free app is available for all Apple and Android devices. With the DHS eFOIA Mobile App, you can submit FOIA requests or check the status of requests, access all of the content on the FOIA website, and receive updates anyplace, anytime.

¹ Appeals of expedited treatment denials will be handled on an expedited basis.

Should you have any questions concerning the processing of your appeal, please contact me at Eric.Neuschaefer@hq.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric A. Neuschaefer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "N".

Eric A. Neuschaefer
Senior Director, FOIA Litigation, Appeals, Policy, and
Training (Acting)