

Request for Assistance

Agency: DOJ OIG

Request Number: 18-OIG-332

DOJ OIP Appeal Numbers: A-2022-00665, A-2022-00406-2

Original Request:

Submitted on 06/15/2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

Case Number: 2005-007639 Dated 6/8/07 Released by the Inspector General any and all records related to it.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

William Fernandes

Entity Response:

Nothing but status messages

Appeal:

Copy attached. Agency engaged in 18 U.S.C 1001, 18 U.S.C 1519 and cannot and or refused to amend its records pursuant to the privacy act that a response was provided.

Appeal response:

Agency claimed they sent this response letter to my office. I have forensically preserved the website for integrity. No response was received from the agency. As publicly available agencies frequently make clerical errors in this case, the agency refuses to correct the error. I am very aware I am not the only FOIA requester to ever have a response letter sandbagged to obstruct an appeal or further action.

I sent a Privacy Act correction to the Agency asking them to amend their records due to 18 U.S.C. 1519, 18 U.S.C 1001. In response I got this letter attached from the DOJ Privacy Office. Corruption in the DOJ OIG and refusing to make the corrections shows a lack of candor which undermines the duties of the position beyond the level of comprehension for attempts to obstruct records of a report that has a public record about the city and or field division with a storied history of corruption.

Even the USAO for the District of Los Angeles is on record taking service in relation to corruption in the field division subject to this request a record six times from the Los Angeles County Sheriff and declining to enter a plea in relation to misconduct.

In my opinion it is a moral bankruptcy to 115,000+ people that the DOJ OIG would have oversight over to hear the level of incompetence within this office.

Resolution:

I was seeking the DOJ OIG to release the report in standard redacted fashion. And issue a correction and or apology pursuant to the Privacy Act. And cease and desist attempts to harass FOIA requesters due internal misconduct. Pursuant to the date of the report, I firmly believe the records should be in archive custody.

/s/

William Fernandes

This conduct was also distributed to the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Response shown:

Thank you for taking the time to contact the Judiciary Committee's Republican Oversight and Investigations staff.

We will contact you if further information is needed to inquire into the issues you have raised.

Although we cannot pursue every allegation that we receive, that does not mean your concerns may not have merit. You should consider reporting waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement elsewhere as well, if you have not already done so. Confidential, protected whistleblower disclosures can also be made to:

- the Office of Special Counsel (<https://osc.gov/pages/file-complaint.aspx>)
- the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Justice (<http://www.justice.gov/oig/hotline/>), or
- the office of inspector general at another relevant agency (<https://www.ignet.gov/contact-us>).

If you report your concerns to one of these agencies, please let us know so that we can ensure that the agency treats it appropriately. Should you have additional information to provide, please do not hesitate to forward it to us at this email address. All disclosures are treated as protected, and none of the information will be used without consulting with you first. Thank you.



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties

Telephone: (202) 514-0208

Washington, D.C. 20530

July 5, 2022

Mr. William Fernandes
56099-11148410@requests.muckrock.com

Re: Your inquiry dated May 9, 2022

Dear Mr. Fernandez:

This letter is in response to your FOIA STAR submission dated May 9, 2022, sent to the Office of Information Policy (OIP) concerning your attempt to amend the responses of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and OIP to your Freedom of Information Act request and appeal (OIG Request No. 18-OIG-332; OIP Appeal No. A-2022-00406). By memorandum dated May 10, 2022, OIP forwarded your inquiry to this Office because we are responsible for reviewing amendment appeal requests, in accordance with the Privacy Act. *See id.* § 552a(d)(2); 28 C.F.R. § 16.46 (2019).

In your May 9, 2022 inquiry, you reference an earlier January 24, 2022 attempt to amend OIG and OIP responses to your FOIA request and appeal. I have reviewed the records at issue in your May 9, 2022 inquiry and have determined that you are attempting to utilize the Privacy Act amendment process to collaterally attack OIG and OIP responses to your FOIA request and appeal, respectively, which is outside the scope of the Privacy Act. *See* Off. of Mgt. & Budget, Exec. Off. of the President, Privacy Act Implementation: Guidelines and Responsibilities, 40 Fed. Reg. 28,948, 28,969 (July 9, 1975); *see also* Sydnor v. OPM, 336 F. App'x 175, 180 (3d Cir. 2009) (unpublished opinion) (concluding that “a collateral attack upon that which has been or could have been the subject of a judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative proceeding” lies “outside the scope of the Privacy Act”); Milhous v. EEOC, No. 97-5242, 1998 WL 152784, at *1 (6th Cir. Mar. 24, 1998) (“The Privacy Act may not be used to challenge unfavorable agency decisions[.] It is intended solely to be used to correct factual or historical errors.”).

If you are still dissatisfied with the action on your appeal, you have the right to seek judicial review in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552a(g)(1)(A).

Sincerely,

Katherine M. Harman-Stokes
Acting Director

Mr. William Fernandes

Page 2

cc:

Deborah M. Waller

Government Information Specialist

Office of the Inspector General

U.S. Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530

Douglas Hibbard

Chief, Initial Request Staff

Office of Information Policy

U.S. Department of Justice

441 G Street, NW

Washington, DC 20530



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Sixth Floor
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

January 13, 2022

56099-11148410@requests.muckrock.com

VIA: Email

Dear William Fernandes:

This responds to your electronic FOIA submission via FOIASTAR submitted on January 12, 2022 referencing A-2022-00406-2.

It appears that you might be attempting to appeal from an action of a component of the Department of Justice on a Freedom of Information Act or Privacy Act request. I am unable to determine from your submission what action you are appealing. Accordingly, please send copies of any pertinent prior correspondence, such as your initial request for access to records, the denial of access to those records, or any other relevant information about your request. Until our Office receives this information, we cannot act on your appeal.

Sincerely,

for
Daniel Castellano
Associate Chief, for Matthew Hurd,
Chief, Administrative Appeals



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Inspector General

August 30, 2019

William Fernandes
56099-11148410@requests.muckrock.com

Subject: Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Request [18-OIG-332]

Dear Mr. Fernandes:

This responds to your request under the Freedom of Information Act for access to records maintained by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Specifically, you are seeking documents relating to “Case Number: 2005-007639.” To the extent that non-public responsive records exist, without consent, proof of death, or an overriding public interest, disclosure of third party records or law enforcement records concerning an individual could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), (b)(7)(C).

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552 (2012 & Supp. V 2017). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Deborah Waller, at (202) 616-0646 for any further assistance with your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://www.foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

Kim Kochurka

Government Information Specialist
Office of the General Counsel



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

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

January 24, 2022

56099-11148410@requests.muckrock.com

Dear William Fernandes:

This is to advise you that the Office of Information Policy (OIP) of the U.S. Department of Justice received your administrative appeal from the action of the OIG regarding Request No. 18-OIG-332 on 01/24/2022.

In an attempt to afford each appellant equal and impartial treatment, OIP has adopted a general practice of assigning appeals in the approximate order of receipt. Your appeal has been assigned number A-2022-00665 . Please refer to this number in any future communication with OIP regarding this matter. Please note that if you provided an email address or another electronic means of communication with your request or appeal, this Office may respond to your appeal electronically even if you submitted your appeal to this Office via regular U.S. Mail.

We will notify you of the decision on your appeal as soon as we can. If you have any questions about the status of your appeal, you may contact me at (202) 514-3642. If you have submitted your appeal through FOIA STAR, you may also check the status of your appeal by logging into your account.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Jones

Priscilla Jones
Supervisory Administrative Specialist



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

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

May 5, 2022

William Fernandes

,

56099-11148410@requests.muckrock.com

Re: Appeal No. A-2022-00665
Request Nos. A-2022-00406, A-
2022-00626, 18-OIG-332
DRC:JNW

VIA: Online Portal

Dear William Fernandes:

This responds to your letter dated January 24, 2022, attempting to make a Privacy Act amendment request concerning Department of Justice records.

Although you reference Request No. 18-OIG-332 and Office of Information Policy Appeal Nos. A-2022-00406 and A-2022-00626, I am unable to determine from your letter what you are seeking to have amended. Accordingly, please send copies of any pertinent prior correspondence, such as your initial request for access to records, the denial of access to those records, or any other relevant information about your request.

Please be advised that in accordance with Departmental regulations, any request for amendment of records should first be addressed to the component that originated the documents in question. Accordingly, you should make an amendment request directly to OIG and/or to the Initial Request Staff (IR Staff) of this Office. Your letter should indicate the particular records involved, the nature of the amendment sought, and the justification for the amendment. You should also clearly mark your letter "Privacy Amendment Request." When OIG and the IR Staff complete their actions on these particular requests and if your requests to amend these records are denied, you may appeal those determinations to the Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties as directed in OIG and the IR Staff's responses to you.

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 *Daniel Castellano*

Daniel Castellano,
Associate Chief, for Matthew Hurd, Chief,
Administrative Appeals Staff



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Suite 11050
1425 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

January 20, 2022

William Fernandes
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 108613
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144

56099-11148410@requests.muckrock.com

Re: Appeal Nos. A-2022-00406,
A-2022-00626
Request No. 18-OIG-332
MGS

Dear William Fernandes:

This responds to your letter dated January 12, 2022, which I am interpreting as a request that this Office reconsider its decision on your appeal from the action of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) on your request for access to records concerning "Case Number: 2005-007639."

After carefully considering this matter, I have determined that this Office's decision, as outlined by this Office's letter dated January 4, 2022, was appropriate, and that this Office enclosed a copy of OIG's August 30, 2019, final response letter to its decision. Nevertheless, to the extent you still seek a copy of OIG response, please find a copy enclosed to this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew W. Hurd".

For:
Matthew W. Hurd
Acting Chief
Administrative Appeals Staff

Enclosure



U.S. Department of Justice

FY 2018 Budget Request At A Glance

Discretionary Budget Authority

FY 2017 Annualized Continuing Resolution:	\$28.8 billion (117,274 positions)
FY 2018 Budget Request	\$27.7 billion (107,346 positions)
Change from FY 2017 Annualized Continuing Resolution	-3.8% (-9,928 positions)

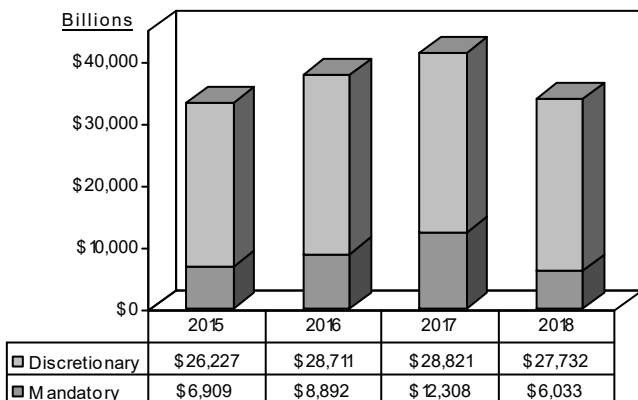
Resources:

The DOJ FY 2018 Budget totals \$27.7 billion in discretionary budget authority. The FY 2018 DOJ Budget delineated by category is: law enforcement (49.8%); litigation (12.4%); prisons and detention (29.9%); administration/technology/other (0.9%) and grants (7%). In addition, DOJ is estimating \$6 billion in mandatory budget authority in FY 2018.

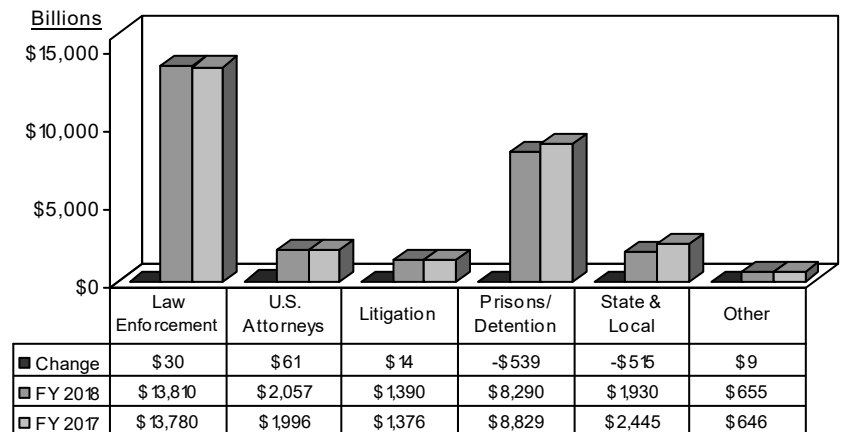
Personnel:

The DOJ's FY 2018 request includes 107,346 positions (direct only). This staffing level is comprised of: Agents (22,326 or 21%); Attorneys (10,153 or 9%); Correctional Officers (19,073 or 18%); Intelligence Analysts (3,972 or 4%); and Other (51,822 or 48%). "Other" captures analysts, administrative, clerical, information technology specialists, legal services, and security specialists

Funding (FY 2015 - 2018)



Budget by Category



Note: FY 2015 Discretionary excluded \$1.1 billion from AFP Transfer

Notes: - Does not include ATR and USTP fees.
- FY 2018 S&L includes \$610 million funding from CVF

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FY 2018 BUDGET SUMMARY

The Department's FY 2018 Discretionary Budget request totals \$27.7 billion, including \$25.8 billion for federal programs (net fees) and a net \$1.9 billion for state, local, and tribal assistance programs.

The Department defends the interests of the United States and protects all Americans. The FY 2018 Budget reflects the Attorney General's highest priorities. By protecting national security, this budget ensures public safety against foreign and domestic threats, including cyber threats. It provides the needed resources so that Federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies can fight back against violent crime and protect American cities. It tackles the opioid epidemic that is destroying neighborhoods. Finally, it prioritizes efforts to counter illegal immigration and protect America's borders. We continue to focus on our vital national security mission, including confronting cyber threats and ensuring the safety of all Americans. Illicit activities such as drug trafficking continue to threaten the fabric of our communities. The FY 2018 request includes resources to confront each of these threats.

This budget confronts violent crime across the country, defends our immigration laws, and protects national security, to make America safe.

Notable investments include:

- +\$403 million for the Federal law enforcement operations —the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Marshals Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Drug Enforcement Administration—securing our nation and implementing a range of efforts to target violent criminals and to combat transnational organized crime groups, especially those trafficking drugs into the United States.
- +\$61 million for the United States Attorneys, including \$26 million for 300 new Assistant U.S. Attorneys (AUSAs) nationwide: 230 AUSAs to prosecute violent criminals and ensure our neighborhoods are freed from their threat, and an additional 70 AUSAs to protect our borders and restore our sovereignty by prosecuting immigration law violations.
- +\$14 million for the Department's litigating components, including \$3.7 million and 40 new positions for the Environment and Natural Resources Division and \$6 million for the National Security Division.
- +\$79 million for the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR), including \$75 million for 75 new Immigration Judges and associated positions, boosting the Department's capacity for prompt, efficient, and just hearings for those accused of violations of immigration law.
- \$2.0 billion in discretionary funding, plus an additional \$3.1 billion in mandatory sources, totaling \$5.1 billion for Federal grants to State, local, and tribal law enforcement and victims of crime, to ensure greater safety for law enforcement personnel and the people they serve. Critical programs aimed at protecting the life and safety of state and local law enforcement personnel, including the COPS Hiring Program, Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officer Resilience and Survivability and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership, demonstrate our continuing commitment to supporting state, local, and tribal law enforcement.

Further, the FY 2018 Budget streamlines programs and redirects funding to improve the capabilities of the Department, and proposes \$1.5 billion in efficiencies and federal program offsets, and an additional \$702 million in program eliminations, rescissions and reductions. The Budget request reprioritizes spending to fund increases in priority initiatives that secure the safety and prosperity of the American people.

Finally, the FY 2018 Budget includes \$3 billion for the Crime Victims Fund (CVF). Highlights within this are \$2.2 billion for states to support enforcing victims' rights; \$445 million for the Violence Against Women programs (which, when combined with a direct appropriation of \$35 million, will provide a total of \$480 million); \$25 million for Vision

21 to improve the treatment of crime victims and victim services and a 5 percent set-aside for tribal governments; and \$10 million for oversight of CVF grant programs by the Department's Office of Inspector General.

Discretionary Budget Authority (BA)

The table below displays the Department's FY 2016 enacted appropriation, FY 2017 Annualized Continuing Resolution, and the FY 2018 President's Budget request. The table shows the dollar and percent change between the FY 2018 President's Budget Request and the FY 2017 Annualized Continuing Resolution.

	Dollars in Millions				
	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Annualized Continuing Resolution	FY 2018 Request	Change FY 2018 over FY 2017	% Change FY 2018 over FY 2017
Federal Programs					
Law Enforcement Operations	\$13,472	\$13,457	\$13,743	\$286	2.1%
Law Enforcement Construction	324	323	67	-256	-79.3%
US Attorneys	2,000	1,996	2,057	61	3.1%
Litigating Components	1,379	1,376	1,390	14	1.0%
Admin/Technology/Other	647	646	655	9	1.4%
<i>Subtotal, DOJ Operations</i>	<i>17,822</i>	<i>17,799</i>	<i>17,912</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>0.6%</i>
Prisons and Detention Operation	8,207	8,300	8,177	-123	-1.5%
Prisons Construction	530	529	113	-416	-78.6%
Subtotal, Federal Programs (BA)	\$26,559	\$26,628	\$26,203	-\$425	-1.6%
State and Local Grants¹	\$2,438	\$2,445	\$1,930	-515	-21.0%
Funding from CVF	[-379]	[-379]	[-610]	[-231]	-60.9%
Subtotal, Discretionary BA w/o Mandatory Savings	\$28,997	\$29,072	\$28,133	-\$939	-3.2%
ATR and USTP Fees	-286	-251	-402	-151	-60%
Subtotal, Discretionary BA with Fees and w/o Mandatory Savings	\$28,711	\$28,821	\$27,732	-\$1,090	-3.8%
Scorekeeping Credits ²	[-9,937]	[-11,837]	-11,324		
Total, Net Discretionary (BA)	\$28,711	\$28,821	\$16,408	-12,413	-43.1%

¹ This level includes funding available for discretionary programs through the Crime Victims Fund; the FY 2018 discretionary and mandatory request for state, local, and tribal law enforcement assistance is \$5.1 billion. These amounts include rescissions.

² Scorekeeping, or "Mandatory Savings," reflect credits applied to DOJ's discretionary budget authority from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) and the Assets Forfeiture Fund (AFF) only in the budget year. For FY 2018, the CVF credit estimate is \$11 billion including \$1.3 billion rescission, a decrease of \$359 million from the FY 2017 annualized Continuing Resolution of \$11.4 billion, and the AFF credit estimate is \$304 million, a decrease of \$154 million from the FY 2017 annualized Continuing Resolution.

HIGHLIGHTS

Budget highlights are summarized below. A comprehensive listing of all program enhancements included in the Department's submission is available in Section II, organized by component.

National Security +\$98.5 million

Supports federal law enforcement activities for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The FBI will devote resources toward supporting the efforts of its world-class cadre of special agents and intelligence analysts, as well as invest \$41.5 million to continue the Bureau's cyber efforts. In addition, the FBI will dedicate \$21.6 million to counter the threat of Going Dark; \$19.7 million to address threats posed by foreign intelligence and insider threats within the Federal government; \$8.2 million to support ongoing surveillance operations; and \$7.4 million to operate the new Biometrics Technology Center, where the FBI, together with the Department of Defense (DOD), leads Federal efforts in biometric identity resolution, research, and development.

Combatting Violent Crime +\$198.5 million

This budget requests an additional \$198.5 million to strengthen federal law enforcement's ability to reduce violent crime and counter human, drug, and weapons trafficking. Of this, a special emphasis is on \$19 million requested for 230 Assistant U.S. Attorneys to address violent crime across the country. Furthermore, \$70 million is for a reimagined Project Safe Neighborhoods grants program, which will be administered as a block grant so that states and localities have the greatest flexibility in addressing their most pressing needs. An additional \$19 million is to implement the recommendations of the Attorney General's Violent and Gun-Related Crime Task Force. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is seeking an additional \$10.5 million: \$6.5 million to expand the ability of state, local, and tribal partners to maximize intelligence about firearms used in violent crimes, and \$4.0 million to ensure timely execution of National Firearms Act transfers. The budget also includes \$40.4 million for prescription opioid and heroin enforcement efforts, and \$419.6 million for DEA's Diversion Control Program.

Enforce Immigration Laws +\$144.9 million

The FY 2018 budget enhances border security and immigration enforcement, and improves the Department's ability to conduct more efficient and expedient immigration hearings to combat illegal entry and unlawful presence in the United States. The

Department requests funding to hire 75 additional immigration judge teams to more efficiently adjudicate proceedings. This budget further enhances border security and immigration enforcement by providing 70 additional immigration enforcement prosecutors and 40 deputy U.S. Marshals. It supports the addition of 20 positions, including 12 attorneys, to pursue efforts to obtain the land and holdings necessary to secure the Southwest border, and 20 positions (15 attorneys) for civil immigration litigation assistance. Funds provided will assist the Environmental and Natural Resources Land Acquisition Section, the U.S. Attorneys and the Civil Division Office of Immigration Litigation. Additional funds are provided for the U.S. Marshals Federal Prisoner Detention to fund increased detention costs resulting from expansion of DHS and DOJ enforcement.

Bankruptcy Filing Fees

Those using the bankruptcy court system should pay for its oversight. To accomplish this, the budget proposes increasing quarterly filing fees. The total estimated United States Trustee Program offsetting receipts would reach \$289 million in 2018.

Prisons – Salaries & Expenses, +\$150 million

The Department's budget provides \$150 million in cost increases, which protects the ability of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to meet mandatory prison operations. This includes \$10 million for expected population growth, to address the results of the emphasis on prosecuting violent criminals and getting them off America's streets and into its facilities. Another \$80 million allows the completion of prison activation that will reduce overcrowding in the most dangerous high security installations.

State, Local and Tribal Programs +\$5.1 billion³

Safeguards Federal grants to State, local, and tribal law enforcement, and to victims of crime, to ensure greater safety for law enforcement personnel and the people they serve. Critical programs aimed at protecting the life and safety of state and local law enforcement personnel, including Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officer Resilience and Survivability and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership, are protected. The Department is introducing a revitalized Project Safe Neighborhood block grant to create safer neighborhoods.

³ Reflects total discretionary and mandatory levels.

INDIAN COUNTRY

The FY 2018 President's Budget requests \$518 million in total resources for public safety initiatives in Indian Country. Investments support activities across many DOJ components that address a range of issues facing Native American communities. The Department is requesting resources to include, \$91 million for OJP as part of 7 percent flexible tribal grant set-aside; \$30 million for COPS to support the Department's Tribal Resource Grant Program; \$53 million for OVW to support tribal governments and tribal coalitions; \$1 million for the Office of Tribal Justice to support tribal affairs and an additional \$193 million for Indian Country investments from other DOJ components.

REQUIREMENTS REQUESTED IN OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY BUDGETS

Health Care Fraud (Department of Health and Human Services- HHS)

Fighting health care fraud is a top priority for the Administration. Through the Medicare Fraud Strike Forces, a Cabinet-level commitment to combat health care fraud, waste, and abuse, DOJ, HHS's Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and HHS-OIG carry out a coordinated program to reduce fraud and recover taxpayer dollars. Each Medicare Fraud Strike Force partner plays a critical role in this effort to reduce Medicare and Medicaid fraud, waste and abuse, including DOJ's investigative and prosecutorial activities and tougher sentencing guidelines funded through the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program (HCFAC), CMS's enhanced provider screening and fraud prevention endeavors, and the OIG's investigative, audit, evaluation, and data analytic work. Together, these efforts root out existing fraud and abuse and act as a deterrent for potential future bad actors. This collaboration continues to demonstrate positive results, yielding a \$5 to \$1 return on investment for law enforcement and detection efforts in FY 2016.

The HCFAC cap adjustment requested in the FY 2018 President's Budget will allow DOJ and HHS to continue to enhance existing, successful health care fraud prevention and law enforcement efforts by investing more in proven anti-fraud and abuse strategies.

For FY 2018, DOJ is requesting a total of \$274.7 million in discretionary and mandatory funds for health care fraud activities. The request is an increase of \$24.9 million above the FY 2017 annualized Continuing Resolution (CR) level. It will support criminal and civil

health care fraud enforcement efforts funded by discretionary HCFAC resources, as well as inflationary increases for activities funded by mandatory health care fraud resources.

Vaccine Injury Compensation Program
(Department of Health and Human Services - HHS)

The VICP is designed to encourage childhood vaccination by providing a streamlined compensation system for instances in which an injury results from vaccination. For FY 2018, DOJ requests \$9.4 million, which is equal to current funding levels. Over the past 12 years, the VICP has succeeded in providing a less adversarial, less expensive, and less time-consuming recovery system than the traditional tort system that governs medical malpractice, personal injury, and product liability cases. More than 1,500 people have received in excess of \$1.18 billion (combined) since the program's inception in 1988.