

Exhibit 104

Angelo v State.....F-2019-05476

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **FOIA Program** <Foiaprogram@state.gov>

Date: Mon, Nov 20, 2023, 3:57 PM

Subject: RE: F-2019-05476

To: Dave Angelo <dwangelo@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Angelo,

You have contacted the FOIA Public Liaison at the Department of State. The FOIA Public Liaison assists requesters in reducing delays, increasing transparency and the understanding of the status of requests, and assists in the resolution of disputes of their Freedom of Information Act Requests.

I researched your request, F-2019-05476, and can verify that it is currently in process. Upon reviewing the case notes, I see that your request is in the review stage. Please note that Estimated Dates of Completion (EDC) are subject to change and are “strictly” estimates and not intended to be used as “actual” dates of completion, due to various extenuating factors. I am hopeful though, based on reviewing your case, that your request may be at least partially completed prior to the EDC of August 2025.

I apologize for the delayed response, but please be aware that the Department’s FOIA program is extremely burdened. Over the past decade, public awareness of FOIA has increased, especially through the release of records online where they can be quickly disseminated throughout the world. During this same time, the number of FOIA requests submitted to federal government agencies has continued to increase, and the number of electronic records identified in response to these requests has grown exponentially. The Department has received thousands of requests annually throughout this period, and the Department’s FOIA resources have been overburdened as a result. This burden is evident in the Department’s FOIA caseload, which is significantly higher than it was a decade ago. At the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, the Department’s backlog was 13,710 requests. At the end of FY 2023, the backlog was over 21,500 requests. This increase in the backlog can be attributed to the marked increase in the number of requests received year-over-year (in FY 2020, the Department received 9,010 requests; in FY 2023, this number increased to over 15,600 requests) and the significant constraints imposed on the FOIA program during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, the Department has nearly 24,000 pending FOIA requests.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any further questions or any concerns regarding a FOIA-related matter, please contact the FOIA Requester Service Center (FRSC) at 202-261-8484 or send an e-mail to foiastatus@state.gov.

Sincerely,

U.S. Department of State
FOIA Program Manager/FOIA Public Liaison
Office of Information Programs and Services

From: Dave Angelo <dwangelo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 4:28 PM
To: FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>
Subject: Re: F-2019-05476

I want this referred to the Public Liaison and I would like to be contacted in reference to the request.

6+ years does not seem like a reasonable response time for a matter of pressing national interest.

Reply to confirm receipt of this email please.

David Angelo

On Tue, Oct 24, 2023, 4:02 PM FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov> wrote:

Mr. Angelo,

This is in reference to your email below regarding the status of FOIA case number F-2019-05476.

The Office of Information Programs and Services' electronic records system indicates this request is in process and has an updated estimated date of completion (EDC) of August 16, 2025. Please note, EDCs are estimates and are subject to change. If the request can be completed prior to the EDC, a response will be sent sooner.

Please be advised that the Department currently has a backlog of FOIA requests and is working through it as quickly as possible. As the Department continues to work through its backlog of FOIA requests, it is mindful of its accountability to the public.

We apologize for the delayed response and appreciate your continued patience.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding a FOIA-related matter, please contact the FOIA Requester Service Center at 202-261-8484 or send an e-mail to foiastatus@state.gov.

Sincerely,

U.S. Department of State

FOIA Requester Service Center

From: FOIA Status
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 1:28 PM
To: 'Dave Angelo' <dwangelo@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: F-2019-05476

Mr. Angelo,

The Office of Information Programs and Services is in receipt of your inquiry below. We will follow-up with you as soon as possible to provide a response.

Thank you in advance for your patience.

Regards,

U.S. Department of State

FOIA Requester Service Center

From: Dave Angelo <dwangelo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 1:07 PM
To: FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>
Subject: F-2019-05476

Please furnish me with a new estimated date of completion for FOIA request **F-2019-05476**. Thank you.

David Angelo



dwangelo@gmail.com

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]