



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

*86 Chambers Street
New York, New York 10007*

December 14, 2023

BY ECF

Hon. Katherine Polk Failla
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

MEMO ENDORSED

Re: *International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc. v. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services*, 23 Civ. 9604 (KPF)

Dear Judge Failla:

This Office represents the defendant agency in this Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) case. With plaintiff's consent, I respectfully write to provide a status report, propose a further status report in approximately two months, and request an adjournment of the initial conference the Court previously scheduled for January 30, 2024. *See* ECF No. 6.

Plaintiff's FOIA request seeks records and data from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") relating to the agency's procedures for determining whether an applicant has a qualifying family relationship for immigration purposes. *See generally* Complaint, ECF No. 1.

USCIS has completed its initial searches for records and is currently processing the resulting material for responsiveness and any applicable FOIA exemptions. The agency expects to complete all processing by the end of January 2024 and make a production to plaintiffs. Once plaintiff has received and reviewed that production, the parties intend to confer about any questions plaintiff may have. In order to allow this process to occur, we respectfully propose that the parties provide a further status report in approximately two months, or by February 16, 2024.

Separately, the parties do not believe an initial conference is necessary at this time. We therefore respectfully request that the Court adjourn the January 30 conference without a future date. If, by the mid-February status report, either party believes that a conference would be appropriate, the party may make a renewed request for a conference.

Honorable Katherine Polk Failla
December 14, 2023

Page 2

We thank the Court for its attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

DAMIAN WILLIAMS
United States Attorney for the
Southern District of New York

By: Monica Beamer
MONICA BEAMER
Special Assistant United States Attorney
PETER ARONOFF
Assistant United States Attorney
Telephone: (212) 637-2697
Facsimile: (212) 637-2717
E-mail: peter.aronoff@usdoj.gov
monica.beamer@usdoj.gov

Counsel for Defendants

cc: Counsel for Plaintiffs (via ECF)

Application GRANTED. The initial pretrial conference scheduled for January 30, 2024, is hereby ADJOURNED *sine die*. The parties shall provide the Court with a status report on or before **February 16, 2024**.

The Clerk of Court is directed to terminate the pending motion at docket number 10.

Dated: December 15, 2023
New York, New York

SO ORDERED.



HON. KATHERINE POLK FAILLA
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE