FOIA Form - Your request has been submitted



FOIA Form Your request has been submitted

Your FOIA request has been submitted. Save or print this page for your records.

Jorge Rojas

21305 Brighton Ave

Torrance, CA 90501

July 29, 2015

Federal Aviation Administration National Freedom of Information Act Staff, ARC-40 800 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20591

FOIA Coordinator:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I request that a copy of the following documents (or documents containing the following information) be provided to me:

All Emails, chats, and other documents, related to: 1) Shelton Snow, an FAA employee, who was promoted to a new position as a manager in the New York ARTCC from the Potomac TRACON. A search for responsive records should include the words "Shelton" "Snow" "Shelton Snow" and any operating initials used by the agency to identify the employee. 2) Correspondence regarding media reports related to changes to the air traffic control hiring program or cheating on an exam. 3) The search terms "Fox", "news", "article", "trouble in the skies", and "NBCFAE". The above searches are requested from email archives/e-discovery software the agency utilizes. Records are requested for the period May 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015. The following individuals should be searched for responsive records. The following individuals are likely to have responsive records. 1) New York ARTCC Air Traffic Manager 2) New York ARTCC Support Manager(s) 3) New York ARTCC Operations Manager(s) 4) New York ARTCC Air Traffic Supervisors 5) Potomac TRACON Air Traffic Manager 6) Potomac TRACON Support Manager(s) 7) Potomac TRACON Operations Manager(s) 8) Potomac TRACON Air Traffic Supervisors.

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7/28/2015

FOIA Form - Your request has been submitted

In order to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that my fee category is: all others.

The maximum dollar amount I am willing to pay for this request is \$50.00. Please notify me if the fees will exceed \$25.00 or the maximum dollar amount I entered.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jorge Rojas

Phone: 4242191582

rojas.jorge96@gmail.com

Page last modified: October 12, 2012 9:24:22 AM EDT

This page was originally published at: https://www.faa.gov/foia/email_foia/submitted/



FOIA Program Management Branch 800 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20591

August 03, 2015

Mr. Jorge Rojas 21305 Brighton Ave Torrance, CA 90501

Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request 2015-008224

Dear Mr. Rojas:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your FOIA request dated July 29, 2015, concerning All Emails, chats, and other documents, related to: 1) Shelton Snow, an FAA employee, who was promoted to a new position as a manager in the New York ARTCC from the Potomac TRACON..

Your request has been assigned for action to the office(s) listed below:

Federal Aviation Administration Air Traffic Org - Eastern Service Area (ES-JA1) 1701 Columbia Avenue P.O. Box 20636 Atlanta, GA 30320

Contact: Tessa Berry

ATO FOIA Coordinator

(404) 305-5536

Should you wish to inquire as to the status of your request, please contact the assigned FOIA coordinator(s). Please refer to the above referenced number on all future correspondence regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Alan Eric Billings

Digitally signed by Alan Eric Billings

DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=FEDERAL AVIATION

ADMINISTRATION, ou=FEDERAL AVIATION

ADMINISTRATION, on=Alan Eric Billings

Alan Billings



Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmall.com>

Acknowledgement Letter for 2015-008224

1 message

Stacy.M.Thomas@faa.gov <Stacy.M.Thomas@faa.gov> To: rojas.jorge96@gmail.com

Tue, Aug 4, 2015 at 12:56 PM

Attached is your acknowledgement letter.

Respectfully,

Stacy M. Thomas

Management & Program Analyst Administrative Services Group Management Support Team, AJV-E52 (404) 305-5549 (office) stacy.m.thomas@faa.gov







PROPRIETARY & CONFIDENTIAL** This email and any attachments are confidential and/or proprietary and intended solely for the named recipients. Unauthorized use, copying, or distribution is prohibited. If you received this e-mail in error, please notify me by replying and delete the message without copying or disclosing it. Thank you.

2015-008224 - Rojas.rtf 304K



Air Traffic Org - Eastern Service Area 1701 Columbia Avenue College Park, GA 30337

August 04, 2015

Mr. Jorge Rojas 21305 Brighton Ave Torrance, CA 90501

Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request 2015-008224

Dear Mr. Rojas:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your FOIA request dated July 29, 2015, concerning all emails, chats, and other documents, related to: 1) Shelton Snow, an FAA employee, who was promoted to a new position as a manager in the New York ARTCC from the Potomac TRACON.

Your request has been assigned for action to the office(s) listed below:

Federal Aviation Administration Contact: Air Traffic Org - Eastern Service Area (ES-JA1) 1701 Columbia Avenue (404) 305-5549

Stacy M. Thomas
Mgmt and Prog Analyst

College Park, GA 30337

Should you wish to inquire as to the status of your request, please contact the assigned FOIA analyst.

Please refer to the above referenced number on all future correspondence regarding this request.

Stacy M. Thomas
ATO FOIA Coordinator



Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com>

FOIA 2015-8224 - Status Check

1 message

Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com> To: tessa.berry@faa.gov

Tue, Sep 1, 2015 at 10:20 AM

Hello Tessa,

Your office has been identified as being the point of contact for processing the FOIA referenced in this email.

Please provide an estimated response date for FOIA 2015-8224. If records have already been mailed, please reply with the mailing date.

Regards,

Jorge Rojas



Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com>

FW: FOIA 2015-8224 - Status Check ROJAS

4 messages

Tessa.Berry@faa.gov <Tessa.Berry@faa.gov> To: rojas.jorge96@gmail.com

Wed, Sep 2, 2015 at 12:11 PM

From: Berry, Tessa (FAA)

Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2015 8:56 AM

To: Thomas, Stacy M (FAA)

Subject: FW: FOIA 2015-8224 - Status Check ROJAS

The Specialist in this office assigned to your FOIA is Stacy Thomas. I am copying her so she can respond to you.

Tessa Berry

FOIA Coordinator
FAA, ESA Administrative Services Group, Management Support Team
Phone (404) 305-5536
Fax (404) 305-5547
Tessa.Berry@faa.gov

WARNING: This email is intended solely for the recipient(s) named above. It MAY contain Sensitive Security Information that is controlled under 49 CFR parts 15 and 1520. No part of this email may be disclosed to persons without a "need to know," as defined in 49 CFR parts 15 and 1520, except with the written permission of the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration of the Secretary of Transportation. Unauthorized release may result in civil penalty or other action. For US Government agencies, public disclosure is governed by 5 USC 552 and 49 CFR parts 15 and 1520. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, notify the sender immediately and delete the original message.



From: Jorge Rojas [mailto:rojas.jorge96@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2015 1:21 PM

To: Berry, Tessa (FAA)

Subject: FOIA 2015-8224 - Status Check

Exhibit 4

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Your office has been identified as being the point of contact for processing the FOIA referenced in this email.

Please provide an estimated response date for FOIA 2015-8224. If records have already been mailed, please reply with the mailing date.

Regards,

Jorge Rojas

Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 2, 2015 at 12:20 PM

To: stacy.m.thomas@faa.gov Cc: tessa.berry@faa.gov

Hello Stacy,

Please provide an estimated date which the agency will complete action on this request and send a reply. 5 USC 552 (a)(7)(B)(ii).

[Quoted text hidden]

Stacy.M.Thomas@faa.gov <Stacy.M.Thomas@faa.gov> To: rojas.jorge96@gmail.com

Wed, Sep 2, 2015 at 2:42 PM

Mr. Rojas,

The due date I have for your request is September 16, 2015. I am currently reviewing the information sent in response of your request. Once I am done reviewing, I will create a response letter for my manager's signature and try to get it out of our office by the 16th.

Respectfully,

Stacy M. Thomas

Management & Program Analyst Administrative Services Group Management Support Team, AJV-E52 (404) 305-5549 (office) stacy.m.thomas@faa.gov







Case 2:15-cv-01985-NVW Document 1-1 Filed 10/05/15 Page 9 of 45

PROPRIETARY & CONFIDENTIAL** This email and any attachments are confidential and/or proprietary and intended solely for the named recipients. Unauthorized use, copying, or distribution is prohibited. If you received this e-mail in error, please notify me by replying and delete the message without copying or disclosing it. Thank you.

From: Jorge Rojas [mailto:rojas.jorge96@gmail.com] **Sent:** Wednesday, September 02, 2015 3:20 PM

To: Thomas, Stacy M (FAA) **Cc:** Berry, Tessa (FAA)

Subject: Re: FW: FOIA 2015-8224 - Status Check ROJAS

[Quoted text hidden]

Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com> To: Stacy.M.Thomas@faa.gov

Wed, Sep 2, 2015 at 2:51 PM

Stacy,

I disagree that the due date for the request is 09/16.

The initial FOIA was submitted 7/29. The request was routed to your office 8/4. 20 working days past 8/4 is 9/1.

I understand that this deadline is no longer being met, but thank you for providing an estimated date. [Quoted text hidden]



Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com>

FOIA 2015-008224ES

6 messages

Melanie.Yohe@faa.gov <Melanie.Yohe@faa.gov>

Tue, Sep 8, 2015 at 9:37 AM

To: rojas.jorge96@gmail.com Cc: Stacy.M.Thomas@faa.gov

Hello Mr. Rojas,

I am writing regarding the scope of your request for records related to Shelton Snow. You requested,

All Emails, chats, and other documents, related to: 1) Shelton Snow, an FAA employee, who was promoted to a new position as a manager in the New York ARTCC from the Potomac TRACON. A search for responsive records should include the words "Shelton" "Snow" "Shelton Snow" and any operating initials used by the agency to identify the employee. 2) Correspondence regarding media reports related to changes to the air traffic control hiring program or cheating on an exam. 3) The search terms "Fox", "news", "article", "trouble in the skies", and "NBCFAE". The above searches are requested from email archives/e-discovery software the agency utilizes. Records are requested for the period May 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015. The following individuals should be searched for responsive records. The following individuals are likely to have responsive records. 1) New York ARTCC Air Traffic Manager 2) New York ARTCC Support Manager(s) 3) New York ARTCC Operations Manager(s) 4) New York ARTCC Air Traffic Supervisors 5) Potomac TRACON Air Traffic Manager 6) Potomac TRACON Support Manager(s) 7) Potomac TRACON Operations Manager(s) 8) Potomac TRACON Air Traffic Supervisors.

As written, records responsive to Item number 1 would retrieve every email, chat or other document sent to, created by, or just copied to, Mr. Snow since he is one of the managers enumerated. For example, it would include routine correspondence between Mr. Snow and the other managers about changes in work schedules, sensitive records that could not be released such as EEO matters or other employee issues. I don't believe you expect your response to include this type of record.

Exhibit 5

Case 2:15-cv-01985-NVW Document 1-1 Filed 10/05/15 Page 11 of 45

May we read your request to eliminate number 1, but include Mr. Snow's name as part of items 2 and 3? We could leave the remainder of the request intact and change the wording for 1 through 3 to:

Correspondence, whether mentioning Mr. Shelton Snow, or not, regarding media reports related to changes to the air traffic control hiring program or cheating on an exam.

The search terms "Fox", "news", "article", "trouble in the skies", and "NBCFAE", whether mentioning Mr. Shelton Snow or not.

This change will substantially reduce our search and review time and will enable us to deliver a response as expeditiously as possible.

Melanie Yohe

FOIA Group (AJI-172)

Litigation Support Group

ATO Safety and Technical Training

(202) 267-1698

AJI appreciates your feedback

Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com>

To: Melanie.Yohe@faa.gov Cc: Stacy.M.Thomas@faa.gov

Hi Melanie,

The primary intent of the 1st section of the FOIA was to get records regarding Snow before and right after he started work at ZNY and before he left PCT. I am concerned that the proposed rewording may not cover all those emails.

Could we change the verbiage to also include "Correspondence, including deleted emails available in ProofPoint archives, between, or sent by/to individuals listed 1-7 below, and/or Shelton Snow, regarding Shelton Snow's transfer to New York Center/ARTCC or his departure from Potomac TRACON, for the period May 15, 2015 to June 18, 2015."? I would also like the search for the proposed re-wording to include/be of the proofpoint/email archives, as stated in the initial request.

Also, I will leave the dates as they are for the two proposed sections you sent me, but limit it to May 15 to June 18 for the proposed section I am sending you.

Also, just to confirm, "Correspondence" includes emails and chats, correct?

Please let me know. Thanks for your email.

Regards,

Jorge Rojas

Exhibit 5

Tue, Sep 8, 2015 at 10:21 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

Melanie.Yohe@faa.gov <Melanie.Yohe@faa.gov>

Mon, Sep 21, 2015 at 9:24 AM

To: rojas.jorge96@gmail.com

Cc: Stacy.M.Thomas@faa.gov, Dean.Torgerson@faa.gov

Mr. Rojas,

Our attempt to clarify the request and reduce its scope seems to have had the opposite effect, therefore, the FAA will process your request as it was submitted on July 29. Fees for the request as written, will far exceed the \$50.00 you have agreed to pay. According to 49 CFR Part 7, you will receive the first two hours of search free of charge, after that and again in accordance with the regulation, the managers you have asked to search their emails will do so at a cost of \$83.00 per hour. There is no charge for review time. Duplication, after the first 100 pages, will cost 10 cents per page. A fee estimate will be provided shortly. We cannot begin work on your request until you have agreed to pay all estimated fees.

Melanie Yohe

FOIA Group (AJI-172)

Litigation Support Group

ATO Safety and Technical Training

(202) 267-1698

AJI appreciates your feedback

From: Jorge Rojas [mailto:rojas.jorge96@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 1:22 PM

To: Yohe, Melanie (FAA) **Cc:** Thomas, Stacy M (FAA)

Subject: Re: FOIA 2015-008224ES

[Quoted text hidden]

Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com>

To: Melanie.Yohe@faa.gov

Cc: Stacy.M.Thomas@faa.gov, Dean.Torgerson@faa.gov

Mon, Sep 21, 2015 at 9:54 AM

Exhibit 5

Case 2:15-cv-01985-NVW Document 1-1 Filed 10/05/15 Page 13 of 45

Hi Melanie.

The original request was sent on 07/29. The last reassignment email/notice I recieved was 8/4. 20 working days after that is 9/1. On 9/2 the agency stated that Stacy was still the assignee of the request. Stacy then stated that the due date for the request was 9/16 (which has also passed). I attempted to clarify this date with her but got no response.

Could you clarify the reason the agency can still assess fees?

Thanks.

Jorge Rojas
[Quoted text hidden]

Melanie.Yohe@faa.gov <Melanie.Yohe@faa.gov>

Mon, Sep 21, 2015 at 11:30 AM

To: rojas.jorge96@gmail.com

Cc: Stacy.M.Thomas@faa.gov, Dean.Torgerson@faa.gov

Hello,

Stacy is still assigned the request; she will be providing the fee estimate. FAA may charge search fees because we have invoked unusual circumstances under 49 CFR 7.34(a)(1) and (2). (a)(1) allows agencies to extend the due date by 10 days if there is a need to search for and collect requested records from field facilities or other establishments that are separate from the office processing the request. In this case, records must be gathered from both Potomac TRACON and NY Center and sent to ATO's Eastern Service Center. (a)(2) allows agencies to extend the due date by 10 days if there is a need to search for, collect, and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records that are demanded in a single request.

Your request was received by FAA on July 29. We had up to 10 days to get the request to the correct office. The request was assigned to the Eastern Service Center on August 4. We have added 10 days to the 20 statutory days to respond. Weekend days and holidays are not counted, making the due date October 16. Please be advised that by invoking unusual circumstances, the agency will be allowed to charge search fees whether or not the due date is met. Otherwise, a requester could make large requests intentionally to avoid fees.

Please feel free to contact me or Stacy at any time if you wish to reduce the scope of your request in order to reduce the fees that can be charged. We are happy to work with you to get you what you need.

Melanie Yohe

FOIA Group (AJI-172)

Litigation Support Group

ATO Safety and Technical Training

Exhibit 5

(202) 267-1698

AJI appreciates your feedback

From: Jorge Rojas [mailto:rojas.jorge96@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 12:55 PM

To: Yohe, Melanie (FAA)

Cc: Thomas, Stacy M (FAA); Torgerson, Dean (FAA)

Subject: Re: FOIA 2015-008224ES

[Quoted text hidden]

Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 21, 2015 at 12:10 PM

To: Melanie.yohe@faa.gov, stacy.m.thomas@faa.gov, dean.torgerson@faa.gov

Hi Melanie,

I disagree that the agency needs to reach out to field offices to process this request. The emails and chats should be stored on a central server, not at numerous field facilities.

This is the first email that the agency mentions the term unusual circumstances.

As you mention, the agency had 10 days to get the request to the correct office. The appropriate component of the agency got the request 8/4. The 20-day clock starts from that point. Even if the agency had extended it by 10 days, the due date would be 9/16, not 10/16 as you mention. The agency never provided written notice that it was extending the clock by 10 days, which is required under 5 USC 552(a)(6)(B)(i), until after the deadline passed.

Although the agency claims unusual circurnstances, notice was not provided until the deadline passed. Although the unusual circumstances claim is meant to be a safety valve for large requests I don't feel it is something the agency is allowed to claim after the deadline passes. Otherwise, the agency could just claim unusual circumstances for every request. The agency also never informed me it was unable to meet the deadline, 5 USC 552(a)(6)(B)(ii), until after the deadline passed.

My belief is that the agency must process the request with a waiver of fees since it failed to meet the deadline first and only after the deadline passed did it claim unusual circumstances.

Thanks.

Jorge Rojas

[Quoted text hidden]

FOIA Form - Your request has been submitted



FOIA Form Your request has been submitted

Your FOIA request has been submitted. Save or print this page for your records.

Jorge Rojas

21305 Brighton Ave

Torrance, CA 90501

July 26, 2015

Federal Aviation Administration National Freedom of Information Act Staff, ARC-40 800 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20591

FOIA Coordinator:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I request that a copy of the following documents (or documents containing the following information) be provided to me:

"--" Denotes a new paragraph. This relates to Air Traffic Control Specialist and Air Traffic Control Specialist - Trainee announcements. FOIA requests for some related, but not exactly duplicative, information has been requested. This is a NEW FOIA request. Responsive records are requested in a PDF or excel format on a CD/DVD by certified mail.-- This information is requested through July 24, 2015.-- This request does NOT request records regarding internal FAA vacancies. This request does NOT request Personal Identifying Information or any information that may link a specific applicant, candidate, or selectee with a specific entry. -- An applicant flow analysis or applicant survival analysis is requested for the below listed vacancy announcements (A, B, C). An applicant flow analysis/applicant survival is a NUMERICAL (not a percentage) listing of various demographics of individuals at various stages of a vacancy announcement. If numbers are not maintained provide percentages. For ALL of the vacancies below: a breakdown of 1) ethnicity, 2) gender, 3) color, 4) race, and 5) source. Source is where the applicant "came from", for example, CTI, Other, CTO, Public, Reinstatement/DOD CPC, RMC, VRA. If one of the components above is not available provide **Enchibit 6** other components requested and all other components available. -- Announcements: -- A) March 2015 FAA

7/25/2015

FOIA Form - Your request has been submitted

Air Traffic Control Specialists - Trainee "Public/Ali Source" FAA-ATO-15-ALLSRCE-40166-- B) February 2014 FAA Air Traffic Control Specialists - Trainee "Public/All Source" FAA-AMC-14-ALLSRCE-33537-- C) The last THREE (3) Collegiate Training Initiative "CTI" hiring announcements posted prior to the changes made to the FAA hiring process. If records for the last three are not available, provide a reason, and provide the maximum amount of records available. The last USAJOBS bid was FAA-AMH-13-CTI-27053. Previous bids were done through FAAJOBS/ASAP/AVIATOR .-- For Announcement A, provide ALL 1-5 requested above, for the a) applied stage, b) passed biographical assessment stage, and c) ***all other stages the agency uses, has used, or has available, to measure demographics at different phases/stages of the process. ***-- For Announcement B, provide ALL 1-5 requested above, for the a) applied stage, b) passed biographical assessment/questionnaire stage, c) referred to take AT-SAT selection exam, d) passed AT-SAT selection exam, e) Issued Tentative Offer Letter, f) Issued Final Offer Letter, and g) ***all other stages the agency uses, has used, or has available, to measure demographics at different phases/stages of the process. ***-- For Announcements C, provide ALL 1-5 requested above, for the a) applied stage, b) referred stage, c) TOL issued stage, and ***d) all other stages the agency uses, has used, or has available, to measure demographics at different phases/stages of the process. ***-- For all of the above stages, provide the name of the stage and a descriptive description of the stage if not clearly evident by the name of the stage. Each stage should be measured separately and included separately. In other words, break down the requested information by stage and by demographic. If some records are not available provide all available records. The agency maintains the above statistics. Evidence is in the "Summary of Applicant Flows..." graph shown in a report regarding the "barriers" to air traffic control hiring available on the FAA website. This request asks for exact numbers, which the analysis does not provide, and is more broad in scope. --

In order to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that my fee category is: all others.

The maximum dollar amount I am willing to pay for this request is \$50.00. Please notify me if the fees will exceed \$25.00 or the maximum dollar amount I entered.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jorge Rojas

Phone: 4242191582

rojas.jorge96@gmail.com

Page last modified: October 12, 2012 9:24:22 AM EDT

This page was originally published at: https://www.faa.gov/foia/email_foia/submitted/

Exhibit 6



FOIA Program Management Branch 800 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20591

July 31, 2015

Mr. Jorge Rojas 21305 Brighton Ave Torrance, CA 90501

Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request 2015-008181

Dear Mr. Rojas:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your FOIA request dated July 26, 2015, concerning ALL of the vacancies below an applicant flow analysis including 1) ethnicity, 2) gender, 3) color, 4) race, and 5) source. The vacancies are announcements A: FAA-ATO-15-ALLSRCE-40166; B: FAA-AMC-14-ALLSRCE-33537; C: The last THREE (3) CTI hiring announcements posted prior to the changes made to the FAA hiring process.

Your request has been assigned for action to the office(s) listed below:

Federal Aviation Administration Office of Human Resources 1601 Lind Ave., SW Renton, WA 98057

Contact: Beth Mathison **FOIA Coordinator** (425) 227-2070

Should you wish to inquire as to the status of your request, please contact the assigned FOIA coordinator(s). Please refer to the above referenced number on all future correspondence regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Alan Eric Billings Avanton Administration, ou-FEDERAL AVANTON ADMINISTRATION, ou-FEDERAL AVANTON ADMINISTRATION, ou-FADERAL AVANTON ADMINISTRATION ADMINISTRATION

Alan Billings



Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com>

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2015-008181

7 messages

Beth.Mathison@faa.gov <Beth.Mathison@faa.gov> To: rojas.jorge96@gmail.com

Thu, Aug 27, 2015 at 10:34 AM

Dear Mr. Rojas,

The office that has been assigned to work on your FOIA request 2015-008181 has determined that it will take considerable time to extract and process the requested information. They estimate that they will need to access over 52,500 records to provide the information.

You have agreed to pay \$50 and have asked to be notified if the cost to process the request would exceed \$25. The estimate to fully process this FOIA is \$3,282.00.

Please let me know if you are willing to pay based on the above estimate and would like to proceed with the request as is or if you like to narrow the scope of your request.

Beth Mathison

Management & Program Analyst

Office of Human Resource Management

Business Management Division, AHP-100

425-227-2070 phone

425-227-1010 fax

Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com>
To: Beth.Mathison@faa.gov

Thu, Aug 27, 2015 at 3:30 PM

I do not accept the fee. I will be sending in a fee waiver request shortly. [Quoted text hidden]

Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com> To: Beth.Mathison@faa.gov, alan.ctr.billings@faa.gov

Fri, Aug 28, 2015 at 8:07 AM

Good morning Beth/Alan,

Exhibit 8

Attached is a fee waiver request for this FOIA.

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Please review the fee waiver request and render a decision granting or denying it. If denying it, please provide a letter on FAA letterhead specifying the reasons why and informing me of my right to appeal.

[Quoted text hidden]

FeeWaiver - ROJAS - 2015-008181.pdf 123K

Alan.CTR.Billings@faa.gov < Alan.CTR.Billings@faa.gov > To: rojas.jorge96@gmail.com

Mon, Aug 31, 2015 at 9:54 AM

Dear Mr. Rojas,

Attached you will find the response to your Fee Waiver Amendment.

Respectfully,

Alan Billings FOIA Business Analyst

Federal Aviation Administration AFN-140 CPS Professional Services Desk: 202-267-9166

From: Jorge Rojas [mailto:rojas.jorge96@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 11:07 AM

To: Mathison, Beth (FAA); Billings, Alan CTR (FAA)

Subject: Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2015-008181

[Quoted text hidden]

15-008181(Ack).pdf

169K

Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com> To: beth.mathison@faa.gov

Mon, Aug 31, 2015 at 2:41 PM

Beth.

Please provide an itemized list of costs justifying the reason why this FOIA is estimated to cost \$3,282 to

A fee waiver denial appeal will be filed:

[Quoted text hidden]

15-008181(Ack).pdf 169K

Exhibit 8

Beth.Mathison@faa.gov <Beth.Mathison@faa.gov>

To: rojas.jorge96@gmail.com

Tue, Sep 1, 2015 at 6:14 AM

Dear Mr. Rojas,

The office tasked with searching for the responsive records estimates that it will take:

16 hours at the I band level @ \$60 per hour= \$960

40 hours at the G/H band level @ \$38 per hour= \$1520

40 hours at the F band level @ \$23 per hour = \$920

1 CD = \$2

Total: \$3402 minus 2 free hours search time \$3282

Hourly rates based upon the DOT Dollar Rates effective May 27, 2014.

Beth Mathison

Business Management Division (AHP-100)

425-227-2070

From: Jorge Rojas [mailto:rojas.jorge96@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 2:42 PM

To: Mathison, Beth (FAA)

Subject: Fwd: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2015-008181

[Quated text hidden]

Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com>

To: "Beth.Mathison@faa.gov" <Beth.Mathison@faa.gov>

Tue, Sep 1, 2015 at 8:13 AM

Thanks for the response.

Could you clarify why G/H and I level are needed for this sort of request? Could you explain what each level will be doing to process the request.

[Quoted text hidden]

Jorge A. Rojas 6404 S Sagewood Circle Mesa, AZ 85212 (424) 219-1582

August 28, 2015

RE: FOIA FEE WAIVER - FOIA 2015-008181

FOIA Officer,

This is an action under the Freedom of Information Act.

The following is a fee-waiver request for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request 2015-008181. The FOIA requests applicant flow statistics for applicants for several GS/FG-2152 and GS/FG-2152-1 Air Traffic Control Specialist position vacancy announcements.

Fee Waiver

Search fees are requested to be waived. Data is requested to be provided in an electronic format via electronic email or CD/DVD. Duplication fees are also requested to be waived.

FOIA Purpose

The purpose of this FOIA is to disseminate information to the public regarding the changes the FAA has made to the process/method/procedure used to hire Air Traffic Control Specialists (ATCS). The agency changed the process with an apparent claim that there was a diversity issue. Statistics proving this have yet to be provided, especially those showing a contrast between the new process, and the legacy CTI process. Requestor intends to disseminate the information to the media, specifically Fox Business, as well as process the information to gather conclusions.

Basis for Waiver

Several key elements exist which guide the agency in making its determination of granting or denying a fee waiver request. Each element is discussed with the relevant evidence below. Disclosure of the information is in the public interest as it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

Six factors exist for the determination of a fee-waiver. These are discussed below.

Non-Commercial Interest

The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

There is no commercial interest in this request. There is no commercial interest to balance with the public interest.

Ability to Digest/Disseminate

Exhibit 9

The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

Requestor has the ability to disseminate and digest the information provided from responsive records. Requestor is familiar with the subject regarding the responsive records, and is familiar with the available public information regarding the changes to the hiring program. Requestor is involved in the field of aviation and is therefore able to comprehend the information. Requestor has the ability to interpret the information provided and form conclusions.

Requestor has the ability to distribute the information to a public group of individuals. Requestor has previously provided data regarding the overall issues related to hiring of ATCS to Fox Business. Fox Business has published articles concerning the issues specifically related to the requestor's FOIA efforts. For example, a FOIA reply from the agency regarding the validation study of the biographical questionnaire was published by Fox http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2015/06/22/faa-refuses-to-release-key-documents/. The story gathered widespread public attention, including widespread distribution on social media. This proves the public interest in the data. Another example of ability to disseminate and distribute information through Fox news is an article published as a result of the lawsuit *Rojas v. FAA* (2:15-cv-05444) http://www.foxbusiness.com/economy-policy/2015/07/28/faa-sued-to-release-race-based-hiring-documents/. Similarly, the story was spread on social media and gathered widespread public attention, proving the public interest.

Requestor is also an active participant of a group of students in a similarly situated position, following the changes to the FAA's hiring process for ATCS. Via social media, requestor disseminates information to a group of over 1,700 individuals concerned regarding the changes. Requestor is also able to disseminate information to associations of CTI students and institutions.

Subject of the Request

The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

The information requested must concern identifiable "operations or activities of the federal government", with a clear connection. This information requested meets this criteria. The information concerns elements of a job application for federal employment. The information collected was on a government website and the information regarding demographics was asked for by a government entity. There is therefore no reasonable basis to believe that this element of the public interest requirement criteria is not met.

Records Exist

The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

Records should already exist. The agency has collected the information and in previous instances has provided the information through reports, including a Barrier Analysis report, which displayed the ability of the agency to have the data and distribute it. The agency should not have to compile new statistics or records to fulfill this request.

Meaningfully Informative Value

The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

Information requested, demographics regarding applicants, will provide informative value to the public. Since the agency has recently come under public scrutiny and attention for its changes to the hiring process for Air Traffic Control Specialists, these records will help assist the public in making a determination as to whether the agency's decision to change the hiring system on or about December 2014 was justified and if the attempted goal was fulfilled. Significant tax payer money is spent on the training of ATCS, and this amount will only increase if a general public hire source is used. The agency needs to prove its allegations of this new system being an improvement.

Evidence of the public interest is in the media's response to a recent disclosure by Fox Business regarding the hiring process for Air Traffic Control Specialists

 $(http://www.waff.com/story/27442230/new-policies-for-hiring-air-traffic-\ controllers-under-scrutiny\ http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2015/05/20/trouble-in-skies/$

http://illinoisreview.typepad.com/illinoisreview/2015/05/hultgren-outraged-with- faa-hiring-practices-for-air- traffic-controllers.html http://www.faama.org/2015/05/29/cheating-allegations-surround-atchiring- process/ and more).

By providing the requested records the public can determine if the agency's actions were consistent and non-discriminatory. For example, if responsive documents demonstrate that there was no issue with diversity in the previous hiring system, that will be used to show the public that there were other reasons regarding the changes. This would be in line with current allegations and inferences by the public following the Fox Business network expose. On the other hand, if responsive documents prove that diversity was an issue AND that the agency has resolved the issue through its two application cycles, it will allow the public to back off on the allegations of misconduct against the agency.

Public interest is also in identifying if different pass/fail decisions were rendered for individuals getting the same score on the biographical assessment. It is difficult to believe that such a low number of individuals passed the biographical assessment, and that other individuals did not possess the qualities proven, as the agency claims in its rejection notification, to show likelihood of success in the field. It is also difficult to believe that the number of individuals who passed was so close to the number the agency anticipated to hire. Public interest is therefore present in determining the fairness of the exam identifying qualities of individuals, when there are conflicting reports from within the agency about the validity of the exam and the possible connection to race with the exam used to hire ATCS. For example, CAMI stated that there is a weak correlation between bio data and actual success, and the agency claims that there are either no records concerning the validation study or scoring, and the agency has also claimed that the records sought are pre-decisional.

General Public Understanding

The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

FOIA responses will be provided to Fox Business and are likely to be published after analysis. After analysis, information will also be disseminated to other local news stations in the vicinity of Collegiate Training Institutions and to other CTI students. Information will be disseminated via the web. Fox **Exhibit 9**

articles published related to information provided by me, related to this subject, have gathered significant public attention. On June 22, Fox published a story that made it on the top 5 list "Trending in Industries" section of its webpage. The story also gathered 90 Facebook shares, 20 tweets, and 5 comments. A subsequent story regarding a FOIA lawsuit filed against the agency related to the hiring process gathered 132 Facebook shares, 72 tweets, and 5 comments. Requestor will also disseminate to an online community that has over 1,700 members which desire to know further information and were impacted by the changes to the hiring program.

The public is currently confused by the agency's actions. Fox has attempted to contact the agency for a clearer explanation regarding the issues, and the agency has failed to respond. Information gathered from this request will help with the general public understanding. The public will see what kind of individuals the agency hired or selected as having passed the biographical questionnaire. Fox, a news source, has specifically stated in one of their articles regarding the issue:

FOX Business has requested the same information [demographics] but the FAA has refused multiple requests to respond.

http://www.foxbusiness.com/economy-policy/2015/07/28/faa-sued-to-release-race-based-hiring-documents/

The information requested is not already in the public domain and is new. In addition, responsive documents would not contain largely routine administrative information, as demographics would be substantive information. This is proven by the fact that the agency has failed to respond to another FOIA request with the claimed exemption that the agency would rather not "interfere or let demographics impact the hiring process", per a telephone conversation with a FOIA officer.

Instead, disclosing these records would show the public the reality of the issue before and after the changes and "improvements" to the hiring process between the February 2014 and March 2015 cycles and the previous legacy CTI process.

The current public understanding regarding the issue is based on statements by the agency contrasted by allegations, with textual and other evidence, of potential wrongdoing demonstrating the agency's claimed reasons for the actions are not valid. This FOIA will resolve the issue regarding validating the REASON why the hiring process was changed and the RESULT of the change. The current public understanding regarding agency operations and activities will be significantly enhanced as there is no data yet to prove the validity and rationale of the actions of the agency, but there is overwhelming information suggesting the agency is acting in bad faith.

The data is important to the public. Americans are concerned regarding the competence of ATCS. Changing the hiring source of these professionals in a national security position because of a claimed diversity issue, without providing data demonstrating so, is difficult to believe. The ATCS' plays in critical role in public health and safety.

Subject Matter Expertise

The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

The requested records concern applicant records for an Air Traffic Control Specialist position. The requestor is capable of reading the English language and interpreting the data provided in the Applicant information summary page. The requestor is able to gather and analyze the data and make conclusions based on it. The requestor and the public have little data from the agency regarding the changes to the hiring process because the agency has failed to provide them. The public is ready for the information. Requestor also has a history of disseminating the information provided in previous FOIA requests.

Contribution to Public Understanding

The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

Fox, a news source, has specifically stated in one of their articles regarding the issue:

FOX Business has requested the same information [demographics] but the FAA has refused multiple requests to respond.

http://www.foxbusiness.com/economy-policy/2015/07/28/faa-sued-to-release-race-based-hiring-documents/

Currently, the agency has not provided any data to the public regarding the diversity or the quality of the applicants who have been identified as having passed the biographical test or hired for the ATCS position. The agency has not released any information regarding the validity of the test. AHR has responded to a FOIA with a "no-records" response. The same office asserts that there is a study that proves the relationship between the test and the success at being a controller. AGC has claimed that records are pre-decisional, yet the validation study has been referenced as the reason for denying the majority of the 28,000 applicants for the ATCS position.

The release of the records will contribute to the public understanding, as it will help identify the consistency of the candidates selected and validate the assertions by the agency. Unbacked assertions have already been made by the agency, as shown by recent media revelations and FOIA requests. For example the agency claims to have validated the exam used to screen candidates, yet the HR office claims to no have such record, and so does ATO. Allegations of wrongdoing or misconduct have prompted investigation and public scrutiny. The public has a desire to know from the agency. The agency claims the examination can identify the success in the job, but has failed to prove so. Successful individuals in the job in the military have proven themselves as being successful, but the agency has identified they are not through a personality based multiple choice test. The public needs to know what is going on.

Since the existing public availability of information regarding this, from the agency, is lacking, and public questions regarding the issues remain, this factor of the public interest test is met. Additionally, members of a specific educational discipline, students or graduates of the CTI program, desire to know information about why the hiring process was changed, and the new process' ability to fairly select the applicants.

This request WILL show the public something about the government, as it will show how it hired the ATCS for the 2014 cycle, the first cycle following the changes to the hiring program, and the following "improved" cycle, along with those that were hired through the legacy CTI system. The agency has **Exhibit 9**

failed to provide a validation study which would prove its basis for hiring certain individuals and changing the process. Evidence exists showing that there is cheating and unfairness in the new process. Students, and the public, desire to know why and how.

Per the reasons set forth above, this FOIA supports the public oversight of agency operations, as it will review the agency's reasons and actions, the information disclosed is new, and/or otherwise confirms or clarifies data on past or present operations of the government.

Excessive Fees

The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

I am rejecting the fee assessment for this FOIA request. The agency claims that thousands of records need to be reviewed, while this FOIA request only deals with a few vacancy announcements. USAJobs collects the data requested and should therefore keep statistics regarding it. The FAA has previously shown that it can provide the data requested, as shown through Congressional hearings/testimony and previous barrier analysis reports. OPM also publishes a fact book on similar data. OPM has not published the specific data regarding this request, but does show that the information is easily available and should not cost this much to process.

A fee estimate of over \$3,000 was estimated for this FOIA request. Records regarding the requested criteria should already exist. The agency should not have to create a new record. Evidence that these sorts of records exist is Administrator Huerta's statement before Congress regarding the percentage of CTI students who were selected off of the All Source announcements referenced above. Additional evidence is previous reports which show the % of applicants' demographics and the source, CTI or non-CTI, etc.

Presidential memorandum asks agencies to act promptly and in a sprit of cooperation. The agency acted prior to the statutory deadline, but replied with the fee assessment the day prior to the deadline, while other FOIA requests were requested to be extended because of workload regarding the recent Air Traffic vacancy announcement. This inconsistent manner by which the agency is handling FOIA requests displays a trend of inflating or assessing excessive fees to discourage requests.

Request

The agency's average number of days for granting a fee waiver in 2013 and 2012 has been 1 day. I ask that you promptly review this fee waiver request and direct the appropriate individuals to conduct an additional search for the requested information and GRANT the fee waiver.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Jorge A. Rojas



FOIA Program Management Branch 800 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20591

August 31, 2015

Mr. Jorge Rojas 21305 Brighton Ave Torrance, CA 90501

Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request 2015-008181

Dear Mr. Rojas:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your FOIA request dated July 26, 2015, concerning ALL of the vacancies below an applicant flow analysis including 1) ethnicity, 2) gender, 3) color, 4) race, and 5) source. The vacancies are announcements A: FAA-ATO-15-ALLSRCE-40166; B: FAA-AMC-14-ALLSRCE-33537; C: The last THREE (3) CTI hiring announcements posted prior to the changes made to the FAA hiring process.

Your request has been assigned for action to the office(s) listed below:

Federal Aviation Administration Office of Human Resources 1601 Lind Ave., SW Renton, WA 98057

Contact: Beth Mathison FOIA Coordinator (425) 227-2070

Should you wish to inquire as to the status of your request, please contact the assigned FOIA coordinator(s). Please refer to the above referenced number on all future correspondence regarding this request.

Additionally, your request for a fee waiver is denied. You state that any records fees should be waived because you believe the disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to the public's understanding of government operations, and that you can disseminate and distribute this information to the general public. It is our opinion that you have not adequately addressed how the requested records will provide the general public with a significantly enhanced understanding of government activities, as compared to the current level of public understanding existing prior to the disclosure, or how you will propagate this information to the general public.

The undersigned is responsible for this denial of expedited processing. You may request reconsideration of this determination by writing to the Assistant Administrator for Finance and Management (AFN-1), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20591 or e-mail at FOIA-Appeals@faa.gov. Your request must be made in writing within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter and must include all information and arguments relied upon. Your letter must also state that it is an appeal from the above-described fee waiver denial and include your assigned FOIA control number. The envelope containing the appeal should be marked "FOIA."

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS C TAYLOR Digitally signed by DOUGLAS C TAYLOR DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, ou=FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, cn=DOUGLAS C TAYLOR

Douglas C. Taylor, Ph.D. Manager, Freedom of Information Act Program Management Branch



Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com>

FOIA Appeal - 2015-008181 (AHR Fee Waiver Denial)

1 message

Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com> To: FOIA-Appeals@faa.gov

Mon, Aug 31, 2015 at 4:01 PM

Hello,

Attached is a request for reconsideration/appeal regarding AHR's fee waiver denial response on 08/31/15 to FOIA 2015-008181. Attached is also a copy of the initial fee waiver request.

v/r,

Jorge A. Rojas

2 attachments

FeeWaiver - ROJAS - 2015-008181.pdf

2015-008181 AHR Fee Waiver Appeal ROJAS.pdf

Jorge A. Rojas 6404 S Sagewood Circle Mesa, AZ 85212 (424) 219-1582

Assistant Administrator for Finance and Management (AFN-140) Federal Aviation Administration 800 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20591

August 31, 2015

RE: FOIA FEE WAIVER APPEAL - Appeal of AHR's Fee Waiver Denial response to FOIA 2015-008181

FOIA Appeals Officer,

The following is an appeal and a request for reconsideration regarding Douglas C Taylor's August 31, 2015 fee waiver denial response, to my July 26, 2015 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request 2015-008181. The FOIA requests applicant flow/survival stats regarding several Air Traffic Control Specialist vacancy announcements.

In its letter the agency claimed that the fee waiver request sent did not "adequately address how the requested records will provide the general public with a significantly enhanced understanding of government activities, as compared to the current level of public understanding existing prior to disclosure or how you will propagate this information to the general public."

The initial request/fee-waiver is incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

Disseminate Information

The initial request/fee-waiver and the above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

The FOIA response from the agency claims that there was an insufficient explanation for how the data will be disseminated to the general public.

The following was included in the initial fee waiver submitted. The following adequately addresses how the information will be distributed to the general public. It explains who will receive the information and shows previous evidence of ability to distribute information. The general public looks at Fox Business news, therefore meeting this requirement.

Requestor has the ability to distribute the information to a public group of individuals.

Requestor has previously provided data regarding the overall issues related to hiring of ATCS to Fox Business. Fox Business has published articles concerning the issues specifically related to the requestor's FOIA efforts. For example, a FOIA reply from the agency regarding the validation study of the biographical questionnaire was published by

Exhibit 11

Fox http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2015/06/22/faa-refuses-to-release-key-documents/. The story gathered widespread public attention, including widespread distribution on social media. This proves the public interest in the data. Another example of ability to disseminate and distribute information through Fox news is an article published as a result of the lawsuit *Rojas v. FAA* (2:15-cv-05444)

http://www.foxbusiness.com/economy-policy/2015/07/28/faa-sued-to-release-race-based-hiring-documents/. Similarly, the story was spread on social media and gathered widespread public attention, proving the public interest.

Additionally, I explained that I am a member of a social media community of over 1,700 individuals. The community is of a group of similarly situated individuals who desire information regarding the changes to the FAA hiring practices. The community includes professors, students, graduates, and family members of graduates of CTI institutions. CTI students have been confused from the start regarding the changes to the hiring process.

Requestor is also an active participant of a group of students in a similarly situated position, following the changes to the FAA's hiring process for ATCS. Via social media, requestor disseminates information to a group of over 1,700 individuals concerned regarding the changes. Requestor is also able to disseminate information to associations of CTI students and institutions.

It would be an invalid argument for the agency to claim that dissemination/distribution to CTI students would not be a substantial enough to provide a fee waiver. Court's have rejected an agency's "small-audience" argument, showing that a limited set of the public, in this case "CTI students, professionals, and family" is sufficient. (FedCURE, 602 F. Supp. 2d at 202-03).

Additionally, a website owned and operated by requestor, SaveCTI.org, posts information regarding the changes to the FAA hiring programs obtained through FOIA.

The agency did not contest the ability to disseminate information in response to other FOIA fee waiver denials. Although the agency is not bound by previous FOIA fee waiver denials or approvals, it is important to note that the agency has found that I am able to disseminate information in other fee-waiver requests.

Meaningfully Informative Value

The following was already included in the initial fee waiver request. It properly justifies ability of these records to contribute to the public understanding of existing agency operations.

The initial request/fee-waiver and the above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

Information requested, demographics regarding applicants, will provide informative value to the public. Since the agency has recently come under public scrutiny and attention for its changes to

the hiring process for Air Traffic Control Specialists, these records will help assist the public in making a determination as to whether the agency's decision to change the hiring system on or about December 2014 was justified and if the attempted goal was fulfilled. Significant tax payer money is spent on the training of ATCS, and this amount will only increase if a general public hire source is used. The agency needs to prove its allegations of this new system being an improvement.

Evidence of the public interest is in the media's response to a recent disclosure by Fox Business regarding the hiring process for Air Traffic Control Specialists (http://www.waff.com/story/27442230/new-policies-for-hiring-air-traffic-controllers-under-scrutiny http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2015/05/20/trouble-in-skies/http://illinoisreview.typepad.com/illinoisreview/2015/05/hultgren-outraged-with-faa-hiring-practices-for-air-traffic-controllers.html http://www.faarna.org/2015/05/29/cheating-allegations-surround-atc-hiring-process/ and more).

By providing the requested records the public can determine if the agency's actions were consistent and non-discriminatory. For example, if responsive documents demonstrate that there was no issue with diversity in the previous hiring system, that will be used to show the public that there were other reasons regarding the changes. This would be in line with current allegations and inferences by the public following the Fox Business network expose. On the other hand, if responsive documents prove that diversity was an issue AND that the agency has resolved the issue through its two application cycles, it will allow the public to back off on the allegations of misconduct against the agency.

Public interest is also in identifying if different pass/fail decisions were rendered for individuals getting the same score on the biographical assessment. It is difficult to believe that such a low number of individuals passed the biographical assessment, and that other individuals did not possess the qualities proven, as the agency claims in its rejection notification, to show likelihood of success in the field. It is also difficult to believe that the number of individuals who passed was so close to the number the agency anticipated to hire. Public interest is therefore present in determining the fairness of the exam identifying qualities of individuals, when there are conflicting reports from within the agency about the validity of the exam and the possible connection to race with the exam used to hire ATCS. For example, CAMI stated that there is a weak correlation between bio data and actual success, and the agency claims that there are either no records concerning the validation study or scoring, and the agency has also claimed that the records sought are pre-decisional.

General Public Understanding

The initial request/fee-waiver and the above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

FOIA responses will be provided to Fox Business and are likely to be published after analysis. After analysis, information will also be disseminated to other local news stations in the vicinity of Collegiate Training Institutions and to other CTI students. Information will be disseminated via the web. Fox articles published related to information provided by me, related to this subject, have gathered significant public attention. On June 22, Fox published a story that made it on the top 5 list "Trending in Industries" section of its webpage. The story also gathered 90 Facebook shares, 20 tweets, and 5 comments. A subsequent story regarding a FOIA lawsuit filed against the agency related to the hiring process gathered 132 Facebook shares, 72 tweets, and 5 comments. Requestor will also disseminate to an online community that has over 1,700 members which desire to know further information and were impacted by the changes to the hiring program.

The public is currently confused by the agency's actions. Fox has attempted to contact the agency for a clearer explanation regarding the issues, and the agency has failed to respond. Information gathered from this request will help with the general public understanding. The public will see what kind of individuals the agency hired or selected as having passed the biographical questionnaire. Fox, a news source, has specifically stated in one of their articles regarding the issue:

FOX Business has requested the same information [demographics] but the FAA has refused multiple requests to respond.

http://www.foxbusiness.com/economy-policy/2015/07/28/faa-sued-to-release-race-based-hiring-documents/

The information requested is not already in the public domain and is new. In addition, responsive documents would not contain largely routine administrative information, as demographics would be substantive information. This is proven by the fact that the agency has failed to respond to another FOIA request with the claimed exemption that the agency would rather not "interfere or let demographics impact the hiring process", per a telephone conversation with a FOIA officer.

Instead, disclosing these records would show the public the reality of the issue before and after the changes and "improvements" to the hiring process between the February 2014 and March 2015 cycles and the previous legacy CTI process.

The current public understanding regarding the issue is based on statements by the agency contrasted by allegations, with textual and other evidence, of potential wrongdoing demonstrating the agency's claimed reasons for the actions are not valid. This FOIA will resolve the issue regarding validating the REASON why the hiring process was changed and the RESULT of the change. The current public understanding regarding agency operations and activities will be significantly enhanced as there is no data yet to prove the validity and rationale of the actions of the agency, but there is overwhelming information suggesting the agency is acting in bad faith.

The data is important to the public. Americans are concerned regarding the competence of ATCS. Changing the hiring source of these professionals in a national security position because of a claimed diversity issue, without providing data demonstrating so, is difficult to believe. The ATCS' plays in critical role in public health and safety.

Subject Matter Expertise

The initial request/fee-waiver and the above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

The requested records concern applicant records for an Air Traffic Control Specialist position. The requestor is capable of reading the English language and interpreting the data provided in a spreadsheet or another listing of demographics. The requestor is able to gather and analyze the data and make conclusions based on it. The requestor and the public have little data from the agency regarding the changes to the hiring process because the agency has failed to provide them. The public is ready for the information. Requestor also has a history of disseminating the information provided in previous FOIA requests.

Contribution to Public Understanding

The initial request/fee-waiver and the above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

Fox, a news source, has specifically stated in one of their articles regarding the issue: FOX Business has requested the same information [demographics] but the FAA has refused multiple requests to respond.

http://www.foxbusiness.com/economy-policy/2015/07/28/faa-sued-to-release-race-based-hiring-documents/

Currently, the agency has not provided any data to the public regarding the diversity or the quality of the applicants who have been identified as having passed the biographical test or hired for the ATCS position. The agency has not released any information regarding the validity of the test. AHR has responded to a FOIA with a "no-records" response. The same office asserts that there is a study that proves the relationship between the test and the success at being a controller. AGC has claimed that records are pre-decisional, yet the validation study has been referenced as the reason for denying the majority of the 28,000 applicants for the ATCS position.

The release of the records will contribute to the public understanding, as it will help identify the consistency of the candidates selected and validate the assertions by the agency. Unbacked assertions have already been made by the agency, as shown by recent media revelations and FOIA requests. For example the agency claims to have validated the exam used to screen candidates, yet the HR office claims to no have such record, and so does ATO. Allegations of wrongdoing or misconduct have prompted investigation and public scrutiny. The public has a

desire to know from the agency. The agency claims the examination can identify the success in the job, but has failed to prove so. Successful individuals in the job in the military have proven themselves as being successful, but the agency has identified they are not through a personality based multiple choice test. The public needs to know what is going on.

Since the existing public availability of information regarding this, from the agency, is lacking, and public questions regarding the issues remain, this factor of the public interest test is met. Additionally, members of a specific educational discipline, students or graduates of the CTI program, desire to know information about why the hiring process was changed, and the new process' ability to fairly select the applicants.

This request WILL show the public something about the government, as it will show how it hired the ATCS for the 2014 cycle, the first cycle following the changes to the hiring program, and the following "improved" cycle, along with those that were hired through the legacy CTI system. The agency has failed to provide a validation study which would prove its basis for hiring certain individuals and changing the process. Evidence exists showing that there is cheating and unfairness in the new process. Students, and the public, desire to know why and how.

Per the reasons set forth above, this FOIA supports the public oversight of agency operations, as it will review the agency's reasons and actions, the information disclosed is new, and/or otherwise confirms or clarifies data on past or present operations of the government.

Congressional/DOT-IG Involvement

The initial request/fee-waiver and the above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

Congress, including the Aviation Subcommittee chair, and the DOT-IG have become involved in asking for information regarding the changes to the hiring program. This is the case for both the 2014 and 2015 application cycles. This shows and proves that there is public interest. Congress responds to the people, and the people have requested information regarding this issue.

http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2015/05/29/congress-gives-faa-deadline-to-respond-to-fox-business-report/

http://www.foxbusiness.com/economy-policy/2015/06/18/aviation-subcommittee-chair-lobiondo-blasts-faa-hiring-practices/

http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2015/06/17/faa-opens-investigation-into-hiring-process-based-on-fox-business-report/

Additionally, a bill was introduced in Congress to reverse the changes to the hiring program. H.R. 1964, has gathered 344 letters in support and has 22 co-sponsors.

https://www.opencongress.org/bill/hr1964-114/show This further shows the desire of the public to know the reasons why the changes have occurred.

Commissioner of Civil Rights Involvement

The initial request/fee-waiver and the above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

The U.S. commissioner for civil rights also "bashed" the FAA for race-based hiring. http://dailycaller.com/2015/06/04/civil-rights-commissioner-bashes-faa-for-race-based-hiring/

This further shows the public interest and the own government's desire for information regarding the changes.

Summary

The initial request/fee-waiver and the above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

The public will get the information provided by this FOIA through Fox Business. CTI students will get the information from sources including a social media site which requestor is a member of that has over 1,700 members. The Association of CTI schools will also obtain the information and distribute it amongst its members. Evidence of the ability to disseminate information was already provided in the initial request.

The agency has made allegations that the diversity of the hiring pool for ATCS was lacking, which justified the need to change to an off the street model for hiring. Contradictory information exists. There is a video of an FAA manager stating, on camera, that the CTI schools are diverse. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5H35hJEeDjc The agency has NOT provided data justifying that the changed system has improved the hiring process or diversity. The public is confused about the changes and their justifications. Evidence of this is in the way that Fox Business has covered the story.

This FOIA, which asks for DEMOGRAPHICS, including statistics regarding applicants, will show the public if the agency's assertions are valid. With so much confusing and conflicting information, the public desires to know and understand what is really happening.

Conclusion

I ask that you reconsider this request and direct the appropriate individuals to conduct an additional search for the requested information.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jorge A. Rojas FOIA Form -- Your request has been submitted



FOIA Form

Your request has been submitted

Your FOIA request has been submitted. Save or print this page for your records.

Jorge Rojas SaveCTI.org 6404 S Sagewood Circle

Mesa, AZ 85212

August 07, 2015

Federal Aviation Administration National Freedom of Information Act Staff, ARC-40 800 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20591

FOIA Coordinator:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I request that a copy of the following documents (or documents containing the following information) be provided to me:

Provide, in electronic format by electronic message, or if not available/practical, in electronic format on a CD: a spreadsheet or, if a spreadsheet containing all of the requested information is not available, individual pages of: 1) The "Applicant Information Summary" screen for ALL candidates who APPLIED for the FAA-AMC-14-ALLSRCE-33537 position posted on or around February 2014. This screen is in the back end view of USAJobs which HR sees. The entire screen EXCEPT for personal identifying information, including name, address, date of birth, SSN, etc. should be provided. The page is scrollable. The entire page should be provided except for those portions that would reveal the identify of the applicant. 2) In a different list, The "Applicant Information Summary" screen for ALL candidates who were SELECTED/PASSED the Bio questionnaire/assessment for the FAA-AMC-14-ALLSRCE-33537 position posted on or around February 2014. This screen is in the back end view of USAJobs which HR sees. The entire screen EXCEPT for personal identifying information, including name, address, date of birth, SSN, etc. should be provided. The page is scrollable. The entire page should be provided except for those portions that would reveal the habit 12 identify of the applicant. -- PII information is specifically requested to be REDACTED. NO personal identifying

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8/7/2015

FOIA Form - Your request has been submitted

information is requested. The responsive records should include the scores received on the biographical questionnaire/assessment. This is NOT a request for a copy of the BQ/BA. The agency has the requested information, as it was provided in FOIA request 2015-006130 for a specific applicant. --FEE WAIVER-- ***A fee waiver is requested.*** The documents requested are in the public interest. Evidence of the public interest is in the media's response to a recent disclosure by Fox Business regarding the hiring process for Air Traffic Control Specialists(http://www.waff.com/story/27442230/new-policies-for-hiring-air-trafficcontrollers-under-scrutiny http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2015/05/20/trouble-in-skies/ http://illinoisreview.typepad.com/illinoisreview/2015/05/hultgren-outraged-with-faa-hiring-practices-for-airtraffic-controllers.html http://www.faama.org/2015/05/29/cheating-allegations-surround-atc-hiring-process/ and more). Fox has attempted to contact the FAA for comment for the last 80 days but has been unable to do so, due to a lack of response by the agency. Significant congressional and DOT OIG scrutiny is also present. Disclosure of the information regarding the reasons and methodology to select air traffic controllers, after the December 2013 changes to the process is in the public interest, because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). These documents will further the public interest as it will provide an understanding of the consistency the FAA used in its process to hire Air Traffic Controllers. Information obtained will be provided to news sources, including Fox Business, and published on a privately owned site, "SaveCTI.org" which aims to expose the hiring practices of the agency to the public. I am capable of digesting the information provided and draw conclusions about the consistency of the agency's hire/no hire decisions based on the biographical assessment using the information provided from this FOIA. I am able of disseminating the information by providing it to the media/press and publishing it on my own site which aims to expose this sort of information. Evidence of my ability to disseminate this information to the media can be found in two recent Fox Business articles regarding the FAA's denial of a FOIA request (http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2015/06/22/faa-refuses-to-release-key-documents/) and subsequent constructive denial and lawsuit (http://www.foxbusiness.com/economypolicy/2015/07/28/faa-sued-to-release-race-based-hiring-documents/). The documents and main story on the article are a result of my efforts. The information sought seeks to expose the inconsistencies found in the way the FAA has changed the hiring process to not provide preferential hiring to CTI or VRA candidates. Currently, the status quo is that there is no information to prove the validity of the biographical questionnaire or the agency's actions, this information will improve the public's understanding and allow them to move forward. The information being disclosed is new, supports public oversight of agency operations, and among others, confirms or denies information provided by the agency which is currently contradictory.

In order to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that my fee category is: all others.

The maximum dollar amount I am willing to pay for this request is \$25.00. Please notify me if the fees will exceed \$25.00 or the maximum dollar amount I entered.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Exhibit 12

Case 2:15-cv-01985-NVW Document 1-1 Filed 10/05/15 Page 38 of 45

8/7/2015

FOIA Form - Your request has been submitted

Jorge Rojas

Phone: 4242191582 rojas.jorge96@gmail.com

Page last modified: October 12, 2012 9:24:22 AM EDT

This page was originally published at: https://www.faa.gov/foia/email_foia/submitted/



FOIA Program Management Branch 800 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20591

Mr. Jorge A Rojas

6404 S Sagewood Circle Mesa. AZ 85212 Dear Mr. Swift-Perez:

Subject: Freedom of Information Action (FOIA) Request 2015-008537

Dear Mr. Jorge A Rojas

This letter acknowledges receipt of your FOIA request dated June 06, 2015, concerning FAA-AMC-14-ALLSRCE-3353 to include: "Applicant Information Summary" screen for ALL candidates who APPLIED for the position; were SELECTED/PASSED the Bio questionnaire /assessment for the position. Provide the entire screen EXCEPT for personal identifying information, including name, address, date of birth, SSN, etc.

Your request has been assigned for action to the office listed below:

Federal Aviation Administration Office of Human Resources 1601 Lind Ave., SW Renton, WA 98057

Contact: Beth Mathison **FOIA Coordinator** (425) 227-2070

Should you wish to inquire as to the status of your request, please contact the assigned FOIA coordinator(s).

Please refer to the above referenced number on all future correspondence regarding this request. Additionally, your request for a fee waiver is denied. You state that any records fees should be waived because you believe the disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to the public's understanding of government operations. It is our opinion that you have not adequately addressed how the requested records will provide the general public with a significantly enhanced understanding of government activities, as compared to the current level of public understanding existing prior to the disclosure.

The undersigned is responsible for this denial of expedited processing. You may request reconsideration of this determination by writing to the Assistant Administrator for Finance and Management (AFN-1), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20591 or e-mail at FOIA-Appeals@faa.gov. Your request must be made in writing within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter and must include all information and arguments relied upon. Your letter must also state that it is an appeal from the above-described fee waiver denial and include your assigned FOIA control number. The envelope containing the appeal should be marked "FOIA."

Sincerely, 1

DOUGLAS C TAYLOR

Digitally signed by DO' KPLAS C TAYLOR

DRIC-US, and JAS. Government, quie-EEDERAL AMATICAL
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Douglas C. Taylor, Ph.D. Manager, Freedom of Information Act **Program Management Branch**

Jorge A. Rojas 6404 S Sagewood Circle Mesa, AZ 85212 (424) 219-1582

Assistant Administrator for Finance and Management (AFN-140) Federal Aviation Administration 800 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20591

August 24, 2015

RE: <u>FOIA FEE WAIVER APPEAL</u> - Appeal of AHR's Fee Waiver Denial response to FOIA 2015-008537

FOIA Appeals Officer,

The following is an appeal and a request for reconsideration regarding Douglas C Taylor's undated fee waiver denial response, e-signed August 18, 2015 to my June 6, 2015 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request 2015-008537. The FOIA requested an "Applicant Information Summary" screen for candidates who applied for the FAA hiring announcement FAA-AMC-14-ALLSRCE-3353

In its letter the agency claimed that the fee waiver request sent did not "adequately address how the requested records will provide the general public with a significantly enhanced understanding of government activities, as compared to the current level of public understanding existing prior to disclosure."

Fee waiver requests have to justify public interest and non commercial interest. The agency does not raise issue regarding the lack of commercial interest for these records. Several key elements exist which guide the agency in making its determination of granting or denying a fee waiver request. Although the agency did not challenge the majority of these elements, information is provided for each to assist in the processing of this request.

The initial request/fee-waiver is incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein. Subject of the Request

The initial request/fee-waiver is incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

The information requested must concern identifiable operations or activities of the federal government, with a clear connection. This information requested meets this criteria. The information concerns elements of a job application for federal employment. The information collected was on a government website and the information on the Applicant Information Screen was generated by a government entity. There is therefore no reasonable basis to believe that this element of the public interest requirement criteria is not met.

Informative Value

The initial request/fee-waiver is incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein. The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein. Information requested, the Applicant Information Summary screen, will provide informative value to the public. The information on that page contains information such as veteran preference, other hiring authorities, and scores on the AT-SAT, and the

biographical questionnaire. There appears to be different elements of the biographical questionnaire, or resume, broken down as a score in the screen requested, based on the response to another FOIA request. Since the agency has recently come under public scrutiny and attention for its changes to the hiring process for Air Traffic Control Specialists, these records will help assist the public in making a determination as to whether the agency's passed/not-passed decisions and hire/no-hire decisions were justified.

Evidence of the public attention for these issues was provided in the initial fee waiver request.

"Evidence of the public interest is in the media's response to a recent disclosure by Fox Business regarding the hiring process for Air Traffic Control Specialists (http://www.waff.com/story/27442230/new-policies-for-hiring-air-traffic-controllers-under-scrutiny http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2015/05/20/trouble-in-skies/http://illinoisreview.typepad.com/illinoisreview/2015/05/hultgren-outraged-with-faa-hiring-practices-for-air- traffic-controllers.html http://www.faama.org/2015/05/29/cheating-allegations-surround-atc-hiring-process/ and more)."

By providing the requested records the public can determine if the agency's actions were consistent and non-discriminatory. For example, if the agency claims that an individual with a theoretical score higher than another individual failed the questionnaire, this will call in to question the agency's activities.

Public interest is also in identifying if different pass/fail decisions were rendered for individuals getting the same score on the biographical assessment. It is difficult to believe that such a low number of individuals passed the biographical assessment, and that other individuals did not possess the qualities proven, as the agency claims in its rejection notification, to show likelihood of success in the field. It is also difficult to believe that the number of individuals who passed was so close to the number the agency anticipated to hire. Public interest is therefore present in determining the fairness of the exam identifying qualities of individuals, when there are conflicting reports from within the agency about the validity of the exam. For example, CAMI stated that there is a weak correlation between bio data and actual success, and the agency claims that there are either no records concerning the validation study or scoring, and the agency has also claimed that the records sought are pre-decisional.

General Public Understanding

The initial request/fee-waiver is incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein. The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

The initial fee waiver request explained my ability to disseminate the information provided to me under FOIA requests. FOIA responses will be provided to Fox Business and are likely to be published after analysis. After analysis, information will also be disseminated to other local news stations in the vicinity of Collegiate Training Institutions and to other CTI students. Information will be disseminated via the web, as explained in the initial FOIA request. Fox articles published related to information provided by me, related to this subject, have gathered significant public attention. On June 22, Fox published a story that made it on the top 5 list "Trending in Industries" section of its webpage. The story also gathered 90 Facebook shares, 20 tweets, and 5 comments. A subsequent story regarding a FOIA lawsuit filed against the agency related to the hiring process gathered 132 Facebook shares, 72 tweets, and 5 comments. Requestor will also disseminate to an online community that has over 1,700 members which desire to know further information and were impacted by the changes to the hiring program.

The public is currently confused by the agency's actions. Fox has attempted to contact the agency for a clearer explanation regarding the issues, and the agency has failed to respond. Information gathered from this request will help with the general public understanding. The public will see what kind of individuals the agency hired or selected as having passed the biographical questionnaire.

Subject Matter Expertise

The initial request/fee-waiver is incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein. The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

The agency does not contest the subject matter expertise of the requestor. The requested records concern applicant records for an Air Traffic Control Specialist position. The requestor is capable of reading the English language and interpreting the data provided in the Applicant information summary page. The requestor is able to gather and analyze the data and make conclusions based on it. The requestor and the public have little data from the agency regarding the changes to the hiring process because the agency has failed to provide them. The public is ready for the information. Requestor also has a history of disseminating the information provided in previous FOIA requests, as evidenced by the initial FOIA request.

Contribution to Public Understanding

The initial request/fee-waiver is incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

The agency mainly questions the ability for this request to contribute to the public's understanding of agency activities. Currently, the agency has not provided any data to the public regarding the diversity or the quality of the applicants who have been identified as having passed the biographical test or hired for the ATCS position. The agency has not released any information regarding the validity of the test. AHR has responded to a FOIA with a "no-records" response. The same office asserts that there is a study that proves the relationship between the test and the success at being a controller. AGC has claimed that records are pre-decisional, yet the validation study has been referenced as the reason for denying the majority of the 28,000 applicants for the ATCS position.

Biographical examination score is available in the requested page. The release of the records will contribute to the public understanding, as it will help identify the quality of the candidates selected. The agency will also be able to show the consistency of its pass/fail decisions and how the biographical examination is able to select such a close number of applicants as having passed to the amount of applicants that were needed. Allegations of wrongdoing or misconduct have prompted investigation and public scrutiny. The public has a desire to know from the agency. The agency claims the examination can identify the success in the job, but has failed to prove so. Successful individuals in the job in the military have proven themselves as being successful, but the agency has identified they are not through a personality based multiple choice test. The public needs to know what is going on.

Since the existing public availability of information regarding this, from the agency, is lacking, and public questions regarding the issues remain, this factor of the public interest test is met. Members of a specific educational discipline, students or graduates of the CTI program, desire to know information about why the hiring process was changed, and the new process' ability to fairly select the proper candidate. Information from the screen requested will identify if an unfair process was used to hire, such as having a lower score on the test be identified as having passed than a higher score, or a same score having different results.

This request WILL show the public something about the government, as it will show how it hired the ATCS for the 2014 cycle, the first cycle following the changes to the hiring program. The agency has failed to provide a validation study which would prove its basis for hiring certain individuals and changing the process. Evidence exists showing that there is cheating and unfairness in the new process. Students, and the public, desire to know why and how.

Excessive Fees

The initial request/fee-waiver is incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein. The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

In a conversation with Beth M., a FOIA specialist, concerns were raised regarding the time it would take to process these records. An estimate of 10 minutes per page was asserted. It should not take 10 minutes per page to take a screenshot of a page.

I ask that you reconsider this fee waiver request and direct the appropriate individuals to conduct an additional search for the requested information and GRANT the fee waiver. Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jorge A. Rojas



Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com>

FOIA Appeal - 2015-008537 (AHR Fee Waiver Denial)

2 messages

Jorge Rojas <rojas.jorge96@gmail.com>
To: FOIA-Appeals@faa.gov, foia-apeals@faa.gov

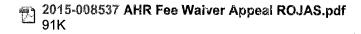
Sat, Aug 22, 2015 at 9:30 PM

Hello.

Attached is a request for reconsideration/appeal regarding AHR's fee waiver denial response on 08/19/15 to FOIA 2015-008537.

v/r,

Jorge A. Rojas



FOIA-Appeals@faa.gov <FOIA-Appeals@faa.gov>

Wed, Aug 26, 2015 at 6:45 AM

To: rojas.jorge96@gmail.com

Good Morning Mr. Rojas,

We have received your fee waiver appeal for 2015-008537 and it will be worked as expeditiously as possible.

Regards,

Todd.

L. Todd Fuss

FOIA Management Specialist

FOIA Mangement Branch, AFN-140

From: Jorge Rojas [mailto:rojas.jorge96@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2015 12:30 AM

To: 9-FOIA-Appeals (FAA); foia-apeals@faa.gov

Subject: FOIA Appeal - 2015-008537 (AHR Fee Waiver Denial)

[Quoted text hidden]