



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

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Telephone: (202) 514-3642

Mr. Dennis Williams  
9712 South 2810 West  
South Jordan, UT 84095  
[denkare@aol.com](mailto:denkare@aol.com)

Re: Appeal No. DOJ-AP-2017-003079  
Request No. CRM-300585963  
SRO:JMB

**VIA: Email**

Dear Mr. Williams:

You appealed from the action of the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice on your Freedom of Information Act request for access to records concerning any referral to the Criminal Division for possible prosecution of Thomas Pickard.

After carefully considering your appeal, I am affirming the Criminal Division's action on your request. The FOIA provides for disclosure of many agency records. At the same time, Congress included in the FOIA nine exemptions from disclosure that provide protection for important interests such as personal privacy, privileged communications, and certain law enforcement activities. The Criminal Division properly refused to confirm or deny the existence of records responsive to your request. Without consent, proof of death, official acknowledgment of an investigation, or an overriding public interest, confirming or denying the existence of such records, including law enforcement records, concerning an individual would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, and could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), (7)(C). Additionally, it is reasonably foreseeable that confirming or denying the existence of such records would harm the interests protected by these exemptions.

Please be advised that this Office's decision was made only after a full review of this matter. Your appeal was assigned to an attorney with this Office who thoroughly reviewed and analyzed your appeal, your underlying request, and the action of the Criminal Division in response to your request. If you have any questions regarding the action this Office has taken on your appeal, you may contact this Office's FOIA Public Liaison for your appeal. Specifically, you may speak with the undersigned agency official by calling (202) 514-3642.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on your appeal, the FOIA permits you to file a lawsuit in federal district court in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).


For your information, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-

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exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

4/27/2017

X 

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Sean R. O'Neill  
Chief, Administrative Appeals Staff  
Signed by: OIP