

EXHIBIT D

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, S.W. Mail Stop 3172
Washington, DC 20472-3172



FEMA

October 11, 2017

SENT VIA E-MAIL TO: foia@protectdemocracy.org

Ben Berwick
Counsel
The Protect Democracy Project
2020 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20006

Re: FEMA FOIA Case Number 2018-FEFO-00048 Acknowledgment

Dear Mr. Berwick:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), dated October 6, 2017 and received in this office on October 8, 2017. You are seeking records regarding the following items:

1. Communications between FEMA and the Executive Office of the President (EOP), the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), or the DHS Office of Public Affairs (OPA) regarding information provided on FEMA's website about the federal government's response to Hurricane Maria and/or recovery efforts in Puerto Rico;
2. Records on the decision to remove certain statistics related to Puerto Rico's recovery from Hurricane Maria from FEMA's website; and,
3. Records describing the processing of this request, including records sufficient to identify search terms used and locations and custodians searched, and any tracking sheets used to track the processing of this request. If your agency uses FOIA questionnaires or certifications completed by individual custodians or components to determine whether they possess responsive materials or to describe how they conducted searches, we also request any such records prepared in connection with the processing of this request.

The timeframe for this request is October 1, 2017 through October 6, 2017.

After careful review of your FOIA request, we determined that your request is too broad in scope or did not specifically identify the records which you are seeking. Records must be described in reasonably sufficient detail to enable government employees who are familiar with the subject area to locate records without placing an unreasonable burden upon the agency. For this reason, §5.3(b) of the DHS regulations, 6 C.F.R. Part 5, require that you describe the records you are seeking with as much information as possible to ensure that our search can locate them with a

reasonable amount of effort. Whenever possible, a request should include specific information about each record sought, such as the date, title or name, author, recipients, and subject matter of the records, if known, or the FEMA component or office you believe created and/or controls the record. The FOIA does not require an agency to create new records, answer questions posed by requesters, or attempt to interpret a request that does not identify specific records.

Please resubmit your request containing a reasonable description of the records you are seeking. Upon receipt of a perfected request, you will be advised as to the status of your request.

If we do not hear from you within 30 days from the date of this letter, we will assume you are no longer interested in this FOIA request, and the case will be administratively closed. Please be advised that this action is not a denial of your request and will not preclude you from filing other requests in the future.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter, please feel free to contact this office at (202) 646-3323 or electronically at fema-foia@fema.dhs.gov and refer to **2018-FEFO-00048**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin W. Hill", is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kevin W. Hill
FOIA Program Specialist