



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Case Number: F-2017-16276

Brandon Smith
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 44574
411A Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

DEC 20 2017

Dear Mr. Brandon Smith:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated October 17, 2017, concerning records and correspondence related to the duration of the 'dvlottery.state.gov' website being unusable due to "maintenance" and the inability of applicants to submit. Specifically, this letter addresses your appeal of our denial of expeditious processing dated December 5, 2017, which was received on December 13, 2017.

We have considered your appeal of the denial of expeditious processing. Our published regulations regarding expedition, 22 C.F.R. 171.11(f), require a specific showing of a compelling need. **Expeditious processing is granted only in the following situations:**

- (1) Imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual;
- (2) Urgently needed by an individual primarily engaged in disseminating information in order to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity and the information is urgently needed in that a particular value of the information would be lost if not disseminated quickly;
- (3) Substantial humanitarian reasons; or
- (4) Loss of substantial due process rights.

Your request and appeal do not meet the established criteria.

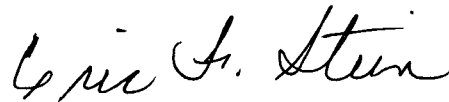
Office of Information Programs and Services
U.S. Department of State, SA-2
Washington, DC 20522-8100
Website: www.foia.state.gov

Inquiries:
Phone: 1-202-261-8484
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Regrettably, I must advise that you have not provided adequate justification for expedition and I must uphold the decision to deny expeditious processing. Please be assured that the Department takes its FOIA responsibilities very seriously and we are processing this request in as timely a manner as possible. All appropriate offices have been advised of your interest in this matter.

For further communications, please note our contact information at the bottom of this page. You may also refer to our website for general information and guidelines. We can provide faster service if you include your request Case Number **F-2017-16276** in your communications with us.

Sincerely,



Eric F. Stein, Director
Office of Information Programs
and Services