

Maria Temkin

From: John Helmer <mail.helmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 2:01 AM
To: Maria Temkin
Subject: Fw: RE: Re[2]: F-2017-12701 (Zelman Cowen) -- PRIORITY

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "FOIA Status" <FOIAStatus@state.gov>
To: "John Helmer" <mail.helmer@gmail.com>
Sent: 26/09/2018 17:49:22
Subject: RE: Re[2]: F-2017-12701 (Zelman Cowen) -- PRIORITY

Mr. Helmer,

This is in reference to your email below regarding FOIA case control number F-2017-12701. We have contacted the team assigned to the case and have asked for a status report and an estimated date of completion. We will provide you the information when we receive it.

Sincerely,
U.S. Department of State
FOIA Requester Service Center
(202) 261-8484
foiastatus@state.gov

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From: John Helmer <mail.helmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2018 4:23 AM
To: FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>
Cc: Bruce Marks <Marks@mslegal.com>
Subject: Re[2]: F-2017-12701 (Zelman Cowen) -- PRIORITY

Dear Ms. Wood:

This FOIA request, commencing June 10 and receipted June 16, 2017, has been processed by you and the Department of State unlawfully and with improper delay; that now extends for fifteen months.

This case followed unlawful closure without reason of the preceding FOIA request for the same named individual, case number F-2017-11739.

I request your prompt acknowledgement of receipt of this email, and within two weeks thereafter the documents requested. Thereafter, and without notice, I will see court orders for compliance with the FOI Act and for release of the documents.

Yours faithfully,

John Helmer

----- Original Message -----

From: "FOIA Status" <FOIAStatus@state.gov>

To: "John Helmer" <mail.helmer@gmail.com>

Sent: 17/11/2017 20:45:02

Subject: RE: F-2017-12701 (Zelman Cowen) -- PRIORITY

Dear John Helmer,

This is a follow-up to your email message regarding your FOIA request case control number F-2017-12701. The Office of Information Programs and Services' (IPS) electronic records system indicates that your request has been assigned to the appropriate team for processing. We will provide an estimated date of completion to you when it becomes available.

The Department processes FOIA and Privacy Act requests on a first-in, first-out basis, and currently has a backlog of approximately 11,900 cases. As a result, there is presently a delay in the completion of FOIA and Privacy Act requests.

If you have further concerns or any questions regarding any FOIA-related matter, please contact the FOIA Requester Service Center (FRSC) at (202) 261-8484, or fax us at (202) 261-8579 or send an e-mail to foiastatus@state.gov.

Sincerely,
Katrina Wood
U.S. Department of State
FOIA Requester Service Center
(202) 261-8484
foiastatus@state.gov

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From: John Helmer [mailto:mail.helmer@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 10:10 PM

To: FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>

Subject: Re: F-2017-12701 (Zelman Cowen) -- PRIORITY

Dear Sir/Madam:

On June 10, 2017, I filed an FOIA request for documents relating to Zelman Cowen (deceased).

On June 16 I received a letter of confirmation from RCB/OIP&S. This indicated the assignment of Case Control Number F-2017-12701. (Because of the handwriting, the last five digits may be read as: 17701.)

It is now five (5) months since the commencement of processing. Accordingly, I request a status report of the search and case control to date.

Yours sincerely,

Prof John Helmer