



SOCIAL SECURITY

Refer to:

S9H: SSA-2020-005651

October 19, 2020

Mr. Edward Hasbrouck
The Identity Project
1736 Franklin Street, 9th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
edward@hasbrouck.org

Dear Mr. Hasbrouck:

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) referred your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Social Security Administration (SSA) on August 31, 2020 because some information in their files originated with SSA. I am responding to you because of my responsibilities under the FOIA. The documents that DHS referred to us pertain to your January 21, 2016 request for DHS records for emails sent to and from the email account associated with the Real ID program located in the Office of the Chief Information Officer. I am responding to your request for a fee waiver for your FOIA request.

I have decided not to waive or reduce the fee.

Section 1106(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1306(c)) provides that we charge full cost for search and reproduction of records when the request is for a purpose not directly related to the administration of a program under the Social Security Act. Because you are requesting this information for another purpose, we can charge you.

We may waive or reduce the fee under our regulation at 20 C.F.R. § 402.185(b) if we find that waiver is in the public interest. This law requires agencies to furnish documents for no fee or a reduced fee if:

- it is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government, and
- it is not primarily in the requester's commercial interest.

Applying this standard, I have determined that furnishing you this information is not in the public interest.

If you have questions, or would like further assistance with your request, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov; by phone at 410-965-1727, by choosing Option 2; or facsimile at 410-966-0869.

You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration for dispute resolution services. OGIS is an entity outside of SSA that offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll-free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you disagree with this decision, you may file a written appeal with the Executive Director for the Office of Privacy and Disclosure, Social Security Administration, G-401 WHR, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235 or electronically transmitted to FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov. You have 90 days from the date of our administrative closure to appeal our decision. Please mark the envelope or subject line with “Freedom of Information Appeal.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ann Zimmerman".

Mary Ann Zimmerman
Freedom of Information Officer