

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC., )  
425 Third Street, S.W., Suite 800 )  
Washington, DC 20024, )  
 )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
v. )  
 )  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & )  
HUMAN SERVICES )  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W. )  
Washington, DC 20201, )  
 )  
Defendant. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Civil Action No.  
  
Case: 1:10-cv-02328  
Assigned To : Sullivan, Emmet G.  
Assign. Date : 12/30/2010  
Description: FOIA/Privacy Act

**COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

Plaintiff Judicial Watch, Inc. brings this action against Defendant Department of Health & Human Services to compel compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (“FOIA”). As grounds therefor, Plaintiff alleges as follows:

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
2. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e).

**PARTIES**

3. Plaintiff is a non-profit, educational foundation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia and having its principal place of business at 425 Third Street, S.W., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20024. Plaintiff seeks to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in government and fidelity to the rule of law. In furtherance of its public interest

mission, Plaintiff regularly requests access to the public records of federal, state, and local government agencies, entities, and offices, and disseminates its findings to the public.

4. Defendant is an agency of the United States Government and is headquartered at 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20201. Defendant has possession, custody, and control of records to which Plaintiff seeks access.

#### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

5. On October 7, 2010, Plaintiff sent a FOIA request to Defendant seeking access to the following:

- A. All records concerning the decision to grant waivers of the Annual Limits Requirements of PHS Act Section 2711; and
- B. All communications between McDonald's Corp. and HHS concerning Annual Limits Requirements.

The time frame for this request is from March 2010 to the present.

6. Defendant acknowledged receipt of Plaintiff's FOIA request by letter dated October 8, 2010.

7. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A), Defendant was required to respond to Plaintiff's FOIA request within twenty (20) working days, or by November 8, 2010.

8. As of the date of this Complaint, Defendant has failed to produce any records responsive to the request or demonstrate that responsive records are exempt from production. Nor has it indicated whether or when any responsive records will be produced. In short, Defendant has failed to respond to the request in any manner.

9. Because Defendant failed to comply with the time limit set forth in 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A), Plaintiff is deemed to have exhausted any and all administrative remedies with respect to its FOIA request, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(C).

**COUNT 1**  
**(Violation of FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552)**

10. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs 1 through 9 as if fully stated herein.

11. Defendant is unlawfully withholding records requested by Plaintiff pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552.

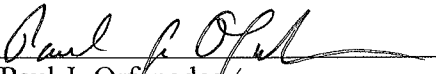
12. Plaintiff is being irreparably harmed by reason of Defendant's unlawful withholding of requested records, and Plaintiff will continue to be irreparably harmed unless Defendant is compelled to conform its conduct to the requirements of the law.

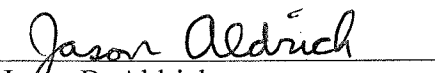
WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court: (1) order Defendant to conduct search for any and all responsive records to Plaintiff's FOIA request and demonstrate that it employed search methods reasonably likely to lead to the discovery of records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request; (2) order Defendant to produce, by a date certain, any and all non-exempt records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request and a *Vaughn* index of any responsive records withheld under claim of exemption; (3) enjoin Defendant from continuing to withhold any and all non-exempt records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request; (4) grant Plaintiff an award of attorneys' fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred in this action pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E); and (5) grant Plaintiff such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: December 30, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.

  
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