

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 21-3389 (APM)

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Pursuant to this Court's Minute Order dated April 21, 2023, Defendant, the United States Department of Justice and specifically, its component, the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and Plaintiff, Judicial Watch, Inc., by and through their respective counsel, hereby submit this joint status report. In this Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") case, Plaintiff seeks records related to an October 4, 2021, memorandum issued by the Attorney General. Compl. ¶ 5, ECF No. 1.

As noted in the parties' previous joint status reports, the FBI completed its initial search, and given the early cut-off date for the search, located no responsive documents. After meeting and conferring extensively, the parties agreed that the FBI would perform a supplemental search, pursuant to terms recited in prior Status Reports that the parties agreed upon. The FBI completed its supplemental search, and on March 15, 2023, the FBI produced documents responsive to that search. In addition, the FBI is now also following up on a potential leads that might uncover additional records. As of today, the FBI has received the results from one additional search, which it is currently reviewing to determine responsiveness. This additional search yielded approximately 2,921 pages of potentially responsive material. The FBI then conducted a second additional search based on leads from the first additional search. The FBI is still gathering the results of this second

additional search. The FBI will process and produce any non-exempt responsive material gathered from the additional searches at a rate of 500 pages per month starting in July 2023 and provide its first interim production of all segregable, non-exempt portions of those records on August 14, 2023, and continuing on the 14th day of each month until processing is complete.

In light of the current status of Plaintiff's FOIA request, the parties respectfully request that they be allowed to file a further joint status report in approximately 90 days or by September 20, 2023, to apprise the Court of the status of Plaintiff's FOIA request, and if necessary, to propose a schedule for further proceedings.

Date: June 22, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jason B. Aldrich

Jason B. Aldrich
D.C. Bar No. 495488
JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.
425 Third Street S.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024
Phone: (202) 646-5172
e-mail: jaldrich@judicialwatch.org

Counsel for Plaintiff Judicial Watch, Inc.

MATTHEW M. GRAVES
D.C. Bar. #481052
United States Attorney

BRIAN P. HUDAK
Chief, Civil Division

By: /s/ Anna D. Walker
ANNA D. WALKER
Assistant United States Attorney
601 D Street, N.W.
Washington, District of Columbia 20530
Telephone: (202) 252-2544
anna.walker@usdoj.gov

Counsel for the United States