



OFFICE of GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

April 30, 2015 — Sent via email

[REDACTED]

Re: Case No. 201500669
NG: CM: CL

Dear [REDACTED]:

This responds to your April 23, 2015 request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received via email. You requested assistance with your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request and subsequent appeal to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for “all immigration and visa records for [REDACTED].”

As you are aware, Congress created OGIS to complement existing FOIA practice and procedure; we strive to work in conjunction with the existing request and appeal process. The goal is for OGIS to allow, whenever practical, the requester to exhaust his or her remedies within the agency, including the appeal process. OGIS has no investigatory or enforcement power, nor can we compel an agency to release documents. OGIS serves as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and our jurisdiction is limited to assisting with the FOIA process.

We carefully reviewed your submission of information. You received a letter from USCIS dated [REDACTED] responding to request No. [REDACTED]. The letter explained that USCIS was withholding three pages in full under FOIA Exemption 1, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(1). USCIS’s letter provided you with information on how to file an appeal; by a letter dated [REDACTED], you appealed USCIS’s action to withhold three pages in full. On [REDACTED], USCIS responded to your appeal stating that it was not a proper FOIA/Privacy Act appeal. You dispute that response.

OGIS Facilitator Christa Lemelin contacted Mark L. Porter from USCIS’s Office of General Counsel regarding the agency’s response to your appeal. Mr. Porter acknowledged that USCIS’s [REDACTED] response to your appeal was incorrect. USCIS will reopen and process your appeal.

We hope you find this information useful. At this time, OGIS can offer you no further assistance. Thank you for bringing this matter to OGIS. We will close your case.

Sincerely,

Nikki Gramian, Acting Director
Office of Government Information Services

cc: Mark L. Porter, Office of Chief Counsel, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services via email

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
and RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD
OGIS

COLLEGE PARK, MD
20740-6001

web: www.ogis.archives.gov
e-mail: ogis@nara.gov
phone: 202-741-5770
toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
fax: 202-741-5769

