



OFFICE of GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

June 12, 2015 — Sent via U.S. mail

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
and RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION

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Re: Case No.: 201500716
NG: CM

Dear [REDACTED]:

This responds to your May 4, 2015 request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received via U.S. mail. Your request for assistance pertains to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

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.

In your case, you made a request for a copy of a surveillance video of the [REDACTED]. BOP denied your request, citing FOIA Exemptions 6, 7(C) and 7(F), 5 U.S.C. §§ 552(b)(6), 7(C) and 7(F). You appealed that response, and the Department of Justice Office of Information Policy (OIP) upheld BOP's determination. OIP's letter also informs you that BOP does not have access to technology that would allow the agency to redact the video you requested.

In your correspondence to OGIS, you clarify that you do not seek information about any people who may appear in the video you requested; rather, you wish to document [REDACTED]. To this end, you suggest that a "snapshot" of the [REDACTED] from the surveillance video would be redactable and would satisfy your request. You suggest that the BOP could create a snapshot using VLC Media Player, software that BOP makes available to prisoners to view discovery.

In our role as FOIA ombudsman, OGIS cannot make requests on behalf of those who contact our office. If you wish to make a new request to BOP for a video snapshot, you should do so by contacting the FOIA office directly. However, as a courtesy to you, we did contact BOP's FOIA office to ask if the FOIA staff has access to VLC Media Player; according to BOP's FOIA Public Liaison, they do not. You may wish

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to state in your letter whether you would be willing to pay any fees associated with having a third-party contractor isolate the snapshot you seek, if such a service is available.

I hope that this information about your request is useful to you. Thank you for contacting OGIS; we will now consider this matter closed.

Sincerely,

/S/

Nikki Gramian, Acting Director
Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)

cc: C. Darnell Stroble, BOP FOIA