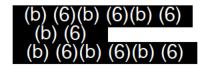


DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VA CARIBBEAN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

10 Casia St. San Juan, Puerto Rico 00921-3201

May 23, 2016

FOIA Request No.: 16-07519-F



Dear Mr. (b) (6)(b) (6)

This letter is in response to your May 13, 2016 request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, to the Va Caribbean Healthcare System for "all the emails exchanged between Dr. Antonio Sanchez (antonio.sanchez@va.gov) and myself (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @va.gov) from 09/27/2009 to 05/13/2016. If possible, I want these emails saved in a CD instead of paper.". My office received your request on May 13, 2016

The FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(A)(4)(a)(II), places all FOIA requesters in one of three categories for fee purposes. The three categories of FOIA requesters are commercial use requesters; educational institutions, noncommercial scientific institutions, and representative of the news media; and all other requesters. I have determined your request to be an all other request.

My determination to classify this request as an **all other** request is based on your employee status at VA Caribbean Healthcare System. That is, you did not indicate that you were a media outlet/educational institution or a commercial entity in your request letter.

As an "all other" request, VA FOIA implementing regulations found at 38 C.F.R. §1.561 state that the requester will be charged search fees for all time spent searching for responsive records, except the first two hours of search time are fee and for the cost of reproduction of the records only, excluding the charges for the first 100 pages. 38 C.F.R. § 1.561(d)(2) states when a duplication fee applies, the FOIA Officer will charge a fee of 15 cents per one-sided page for a paper photocopy of a record and for other forms of duplication, including electronic copies, the FOIA Officer will charge the direct costs of that duplication. 38 C.F.R. § 1.561(e)(5) states whenever a total fee calculated under (d) of this section is less than \$25, no fee will be charged. Moreover, the "all other" requester will be charged the cost of searching for and the cost of reproduction of the records even if there is ultimately no disclosure of records.

In accordance with 38 C.F.R. §1.561(I)(2), when a FOIA Officer estimates that a total fee to be charged is more than \$250, the FOIA Officer may require the requester to make an advanced payment of an amount up to the amount of the entire anticipated fee before beginning to process the request. Consequently, you must pay the estimated fees stated above before we perform any more work to process your request. Please be advised that the actual FOIA fees could exceed or fall below the estimated amount upon final tabulation. If the actual fees are not \$30.933.90, an appropriate adjustment will be made for any difference upon completion of processing your request.

Please understand that if VHA finds records responsive to your request and if a FOIA exemption authorizes withholding those records in whole or in part, VA may not release the records to you even though you have pre-paid the search fees to locate those records.

If you wish to reformulate your request to lower the estimated fees, you may contact me by telephone at 727-575-8077 to discuss this option.

Otherwise, please send a check or money order in the amount of \$30,933.90 made payable to "Department of Veterans Affairs", to the address listed below and I will finish processing your request and will disclose all releasable responsive records in our custody. The mailing address to submit your payment is:

VA Caribbean Healthcare System c/o Agent Cashier (04) FOIA Request # **16-07519-F** 10 Casia Street San Juan, PR 00921-3201

In accordance with 38 C.F.R. §1.561(h)(2), if I have not received a response within 10 business days of the date of this letter, June 6, 2016 then I will have to conclude that you do not wish for me to proceed with processing your request and will administratively close the file on this request.

Please be advised, you may appeal the fee determination to:

Office of General Counsel (024) Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Avenue NW Washington, DC 20420

If you should choose to file an appeal, your appeal must be postmarked no later than sixty (60) calendar days from the date of this letter, include a copy of this letter, identify each determination that you are appealing and clearly state why you disagree with the determination. If you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 727-575-8077

Sincerely,

Wayne Welge

Wayre Welge

VISN 8 FOIA Officer

Attachment: Fee Estimate Invoice

Grade/Step	Annual Salary		Benfits	Salary + Benefits		S+B Hourly Rate		Search Hours	Line Total	
GS 13/5	\$	95,704	16%	\$	111,017	\$	53.19	3.5	\$	79.79
VACHS COS	\$	291,198	16%	\$	337,790	\$	162.40	192.0	\$ 30,855.79	
						\$	215.59	195.5	\$ 3	30,935.58
						\$	162.81	192.00	\$ 3	30,933.90

Notes

Admin position - 2087 hrs per work year Clinical postion - 2080 hours per work year

Close Enough

May 13, 2016



VA Caribbean Healthcare System Casia St. 10 San Juan, PR 00920

Attn: Rosayma D. López Ramírez

FOIA Officer

Dear Ms. López:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

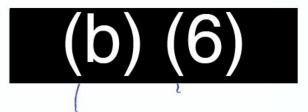
I request that you submit a copy of:

All the emails exchanged between Dr. Antonio Sánchez (antonio.sanchez@va.gov) and myself @va.gov) from 09/27/2009 to 05/13/2016. If possible, I want these emails saved in a CD instead of paper.

I am willing to pay up to \$25.00 for the processing of my request. Please notify me if you estimate the fees to exceed this amount.

If you have any questions, I may be reached at telephone 787-509-0817 or by email at reyramos14@hotmail.com

Sincerely,



1 1 4. 40 pm

From: (b) (6)(b) (6)

To: Welge, Wayne D.; (b) (6) (b) (6)

Subject: RE: FOIA Request 16-07519-F

Date: Thursday, May 19, 2016 10:44:39 AM

\$286,118 without COLA/\$291,198 with COLA - COLA (Cost of Living Allowance)

Shari

From: Welge, Wayne D.

Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2016 9:25 AM To: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) Subject: FW: FOIA Request 16-07519-F

(b) (6)

I need the (if possible) the salary rate for Dr. Antonio Sanchez, COS, San Juan. A FOIA requestor has asked for 6 years of emails from Dr. Sanchez and I plan on sending a Fee Letter. Please help. Thank you.

From: Sánchez, Antonio

Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2016 9:13 AM

To: Welge, Wayne D. **Cc:** Welge, Wayne D.

Subject: Re: FOIA Request 16-07519-F

If I have to enter into my thousands of e mails I would say 30 - 45 days as I am out of VA this week and next week will be only on Monday. (b) (6) has sent me emails in reference to official travel arrangements only as he doesn't work for me directly so I anticipate will not be a lot but some emails will be saved in my outlook so doing a search on it will be easy to find but I need to go year by year and it take time. I don't have capabilities to save those in any form such as disks, etc. So if you want me to print them I can do so and them you save them and process them.

Let me know what else you need from my end.

Thanks...

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Welge, Wayne D.

Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2016 8:41 AM

To: Sánchez, Antonio **Cc:** Welge, Wayne D.

Subject: FW: FOIA Request 16-07519-F

Dr. Sánchez,

Please note the FOIA request below. At this time, I am only asking for an estimate of your time to locate the records in your email. Based on your services response, I anticipate a Fee Letter going to the requestor prior to requesting the records. I also

plan to contact the National Service Desk for an estimate of their time to locate these records. Thank you.

Please note the FOIA request below. Thank you.

Please complete the GS/Step, Estimated Search Time and Estimated Pages of the Records Requested below. When finished, please return the information to the FOIA Office staff on this message.

GS/Step:
Estimated Search Time:
Estimated Pages of the Records Requested:

The details pertaining to this request are outlined below:

Request Type: All Other

FOIA Number: 16-07519-F

Who: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)

Affiliation: N/A

Documents Requested: all the emails exchanged between Dr. Antonio Sanchez (antonio.sanchez@va.gov) and myself (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) (antonio.sanchez@va.gov) from 09/27/2009 to 05/13/2016. If possible, I want these emails saved in a CD instead of paper.

Search Criteria: Date Range: 09/27/2009 to 05/13/2016; any email (Outlook) exchange between Dr. Sanchez and (b) (6)(b) (6) as To: or From: including any other employees in the To:/From: lines.

Assigned VHA FOIA Officer: Wayne Welge

Record Search Due Date: June 1, 2016

WAYNE WELGE

VISN 8 Compliance and Business Integrity Officer VISN 8 Privacy/FOIA Officer (<u>VISN8FOIA@va.gov</u>)

Work: (727) 575-8077 Cell: (727) 415-3729 Fax: (727) 575-8096



Invoice Summary

810 Vermont Ave., NW Washington, DC 20420

Report Date: 05/23/2016

Time: 3:32:36 PM

Requester Details

(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) (b) (6)(b) (6) (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) **Requester Invoice**

Request No : 16-07519-F
Invoice No : 00000003919
Invoice Date : 05/23/2016
Requester Name : (b) (6) (b) (6)

Requester . Organization

Fee I tems Charged Value (\$)

SEARCH

d. Other 30933.90

Total Amount (\$): 30933.90 Amount Paid (\$): 0.00 Balance Due (\$): 30933.90

Request Description

Sub Requests

Default

Memo

TBD