



December 6, 2021

Freedom of Information Officer
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 729H
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

SENT VIA: <https://requests.publiclink.hhs.gov/App/Index.aspx>

Dear FOIA Officer,

I, C. Peter Sorenson, am writing on behalf of the National Police Association (hereafter, "NPA"). The NPA's address is: 8710 Bash Street #501692, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

I. REQUEST

The NPA requests from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (hereafter FOIA):

- All records involving the financial information as well as the contracts and grants with academic institutions, research organizations, government agencies, foreign entities, and other entities that conducted cordectomies upon beagle dogs.

II. TIME FRAME OF THIS REQUEST

The time frame for this request includes only information regarding conduct carried out on or after November 25, 2019.

III. INFORMATION HELPFUL TO THE NIH IN FULFILLING THIS REQUEST

A bipartisan group of federal legislators sent a letter to Dr. Anthony Fauci on October 21, 2021 demanding answers about animal testing that was being funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) under his leadership.¹ The letter was written in response to information obtained by a taxpayer watchdog group, the White Coat Waste Project, which

¹ <https://dailycaller.com/2021/10/21/bipartisan-letter-anthony-fauci-niaid-animal-testing/>

discovered as a result of Freedom of Information Act requests that the NIAID spent \$1.68 million in taxpayer fund on drug tests involving 44 beagles puppies.² According to the White Coat Waste Project and the subsequent Congressional letter, 44 beagles puppies were used in a Tunisia, North Africa, Laboratory, and some of the dogs had their vocal cords removed (cordectomies).³ Furthermore, the group further alleges that “Fauci’s NIH division shipped part of a \$375,800 grant to a lab in Tunisia to drug beagles and lock their heads in mesh cages filled with hungry sand flies so that the insects could eat them alive.”⁴ Additionally, the experiments also allegedly included “lock[ing] beagles alone in cages in the desert overnight for nine consecutive nights to use them as bait to attract infectious sand flies.”⁵

Thus, this request is interested in information relating to the cordectomies performed on or after November 25, 2019.

IV. HOW RESPONSIVE RECORDS SHOULD BE PROVIDED

The NPA requests copies of the responsive records for this FOIA request be provided in a digital format, either via email, or stored on a thumb drive, CD or other electronic data storage device.

See 5 U.S.C. §552 (a)(3) B). Providing these records in an electronic format will save agency staff processing time, as well as reducing the cost of making paper copies of all responsive records.

V. RECORDS FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN; PROCESSING FEES

The NPA is a non-profit organization requesting the records to help it to conduct a public awareness campaign regarding the potential waste of taxpayer money that may be funding the unnecessary abuse of animals. NPA is preauthorizing payments up to \$35 for the processing of this request. Please inform Sorenson Law Office if the estimated fees will exceed this limit before processing our request.

VI. POLICY AND LEGAL DIRECTION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT

Disclosure of the above referenced agency records are also sought in order to promote government transparency, and to reflect the Administration’s policy to support our nation’s fundamental commitment to open government. As the Supreme Court has observed, “virtually every document generated by an agency is available in one form or another, unless it falls within one of the Act’s nine exemptions.” *NLRB v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 421 U.S. 132, 136 (1975). FOIA was designed to “pierce the veil of administrative secrecy and to open agency action to the light of public scrutiny,” see, e.g., *Dept. of the Air Force v. Rose*, 425 U.S. 352, 361 (1976), and in order “to ensure an informed citizenry, vital to the functioning of a democratic society, needed to check against corruption and to hold the governors accountable to the governed.” *NLRB v.*

² *Id.*

³ <https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/medical-advances/578086-bipartisan-legislators-demand-answers-from-fauci>

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

Robbins Tire & Rubber Co., 437 U.S. 214, 242 (1978); see also *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Rossotti*, 326 F.3d 1309, 1310 (D.C. Cir. 2003); *United States Dept. of Justice v. Reporters Comm. for Freedom of the Press*, 489 U.S. 749, 773 (1989).

The above described agency records are subject to disclosure under FOIA, and are not otherwise exempt from disclosure pursuant to FOIA's nine statutory exemptions. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(1) - (9). To the extent that a determination is made by your FOIA office staff that any limited portions of the records listed above will be withheld from disclosure for this request, FOIA expressly requires all agencies to disclose "[a]ny reasonably segregable portion of a record . . . after deletion of the portions of the record which are exempt." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). See, e.g., *Oglesby v. U.S. Dept. of Army*, 79 F.3d 1172, 1178 (D.C. Cir. 1996); see also *Abdelfattah v. U.S. Dept. Of Homeland Security*, 488 F.3d 178, 186-187 (3rd Cir).

The 2007 Openness Promotes Effectiveness in our National Government Act amendments to FOIA (the "OPEN Government Act") requires identification of the amount of any material withheld, the location of any withholdings, a direct reference to the specific statutory exemption supporting each withholdings asserted, and if technically possible, also require that this information shall "be indicated at the place in the record where such deletion is made." See 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Therefore, I would appreciate your assistance in expressly identifying any exempt responsive records (or portions thereof) and the applicable FOIA exemptions for any responsive materials withheld for this FOIA request.

Please inform my office in writing if there are any "unusual circumstances" that will cause delay in responding to this FOIA request, or providing the records which are requested, and in addition, please provide the approximate date that you anticipate a final response will be provided.

VII. AUTHORIZATION

Attached to this request is a Declaration of Mr. Hutchison, the acting representative for NPA for this FOIA request, which authorizes C. Peter Sorenson and the Sorenson Law Office to make this request and to receive records on behalf of NPA. Additionally, Mr. Hutchinson's Declaration expressly waives all privacy rights – as they may apply to C. Peter Sorenson and the Sorenson Law Office – relating to this FOIA request and any records that the NIH has in response to this request. Furthermore, the Declaration establishes that Mr. Hutchinson is willing and able to sign any forms the agency may require to formalize the waiver of privacy rights to C. Peter Sorenson and the Sorenson Law Office.

VIII. ESTIMATED DATE OF COMPLETION REQUESTED

The Sorenson Law Office specifically requests the agency to provide an estimated date of completion for this request.

IX. CONTACT

Please provide a receipt for this request and provide a tracking number so that we may inquire about the status of this request.

If you have any questions regarding this FOIA request or need help locating documents, or if I can be of any other assistance, please feel free to contact me at (541) 606-9173, or via email to: petesorenson@gmail.com. If you send me any email, please send a copy of that email to Mr. Hutchison at info@nationalpolice.org.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Best,

C. Peter Sorenson
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Eugene, Oregon 97440