



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**  
**Office of General Counsel**  
**Management Planning & Analysis**

810 Vermont Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20420  
www.va.gov/ogc

In Reply Refer To: **18-12531-F**

May 29, 2019

**Sent via email address: [agrogg@democracyforward.org](mailto:agrogg@democracyforward.org)**

Mr. Adam Grogg  
Democracy Forward Foundation

Dear Mr. Grogg:

This letter is the initial agency decision in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, received in our office on September 17, 2018, in which you are seeking: "all communications on the role that non-governmental individuals have played in VA operations under the Trump Administration, and the extent of their influence over the Department from January 20, 2017, to current day, et al."

1. All communications, calendar entries (including any associated attachments or notes), call sheets, visitor logs, and meeting minutes or notes reflecting meetings or communications between any of (a) David Shulkin, Robert Wilkie, Peter O'Rourke, Thomas Bowman, Scott Blackburn, Camilo Sandoval, or Pamela J. Powers; and any of (b) Isaac "Ike" Perlmutter, Laura Perlmutter, Bruce Moskowitz, Aaron Moskowitz, Marc Sherman Thomas "Jake" Leinenkugel, or individuals with email addresses ending in "@frenchangel59.com."

2. All communications, calendar entries (including any associated attachments or notes), call sheets, visitor logs, and meeting minutes or notes containing any of the following terms: Ike, Perlmutter, Moskowitz, or Sherman. Please limit this search to the Office of the Secretary.

3. All communications, calendar entries (including any associated attachments or notes) call sheets, visitor logs, and meeting minutes or notes containing any of the following terms: Ike Perlmutter, Moskowitz, Sherman, frenchangel59.com, American College of Surgeons, ACS, or Zinner. Please limit this search to the following VA employees: David Shulkin, Robert Wilkie, Peter O'Rourke, Thomas Bowman, Scott Blackburn, Camilo Sandoval, Pamela J. Powers, William Gunnar, Carolyn Clancy, Clifford Ko, and David Hoyt.

4. All communications, calendar entries (including any associated attachments or notes), call sheets, visitor logs, and meeting minutes or notes containing any of the following terms: Ike, Perlmutter, Moskowitz, Sherman, Apple, app for veterans, mobile application, mobile app, or Aaron. Please limit this search to the following VA employees: David Shulkin, Robert Wilkie, Peter O'Rourke, Thomas Bowman, Scott Blackburn, Camilo Sandoval, Pamela J. Powers, Richard Stone, Melissa Glynn, and John Windom.

5. All communications, calendar entries (including any associated attachments or notes), call sheets, visitor logs, and meeting minutes or notes that include any of the following terms: (a) Ike, Perlmutter, Moskowitz, Sherman or frenchangel59.com; and that also include any of the following terms: (b) electronic health records, EHR, interoperability, or Cerner.

6. All emails sent or received by Genevieve Morris and Ash Zenooz containing any of the following terms: Cerner, privatize, privatization, White House, Trump, Ike, Perlmutter, Moskowitz, Sherman, or frenchangel59 .com.

7. All records or communication concerning the VA final rule VA Claims and Appeals Modernization, 83 Fed. Reg. 39818 (August 10, 2018) where any of the following individuals are included or mentioned:

- A. Issac "Ike" Perlmutter
- B. Laura Perlmutter
- C. Bruce Moskowitz
- D. Aaron Moskowitz
- E. Marc Sherman
- F. Individuals with emails addressed ending in "@frenchangel59.com"

8. All records and communications concerning the Federal Advisory Committee Act where any of the following are included or mentioned:

- A. Issac "Ike" Perlmutter
- B. Laura Perlmutter
- C. Bruce Moskowitz
- D. Aaron Moskowitz
- E. Marc Sherman,
- F. Individuals with emails addressed ending in "@frenchangel59.com"

Please limit this search to the Office of the Secretary and the Office of General Counsel.

The Office of General Counsel is responding to item 8 of your FOIA request. We have reviewed your submission under the provisions of the FOIA, which states that federal agencies must disclose records requested unless they may be withheld in accordance with one or more of nine statutory exemptions. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Please note that the FOIA is a records statute that applies only to agency documents in existence when a request is processed under its provisions.

The Office of Information & Technology (OI&T) conducted a reasonable search using a software platform called Clearwell for records relating to item 8. The OI&T expert provided records for 134 documents (emails and attachments together,) and 42 court records (different files - Word docs, VA News Releases, agendas, Powerpoint presentations, pdfs, etc.) which were found to be search positive for items: "Federal Advisory Committee Act," Isaac Perlmutter," "Ike Perlmutter," "Laura Perlmutter," "Bruce Moskowitz," "Aaron Moskowitz," "Marc Sherman," "frenchangel59.com."

As the FOIA Officer, I analyzed each document and tagged whether it was responsive or nonresponsive. After a careful review of the documents, this concludes our response.

**VA FOIA Appeal, Public Liaison, OGIS Options**

Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the processing of this request, you may contact M. Renee Baxter at [OGCFOIArequests@va.gov](mailto:OGCFOIArequests@va.gov). Also, you have the

right to seek assistance from the VA FOIA Public Liaison, Doloras Johnson, at 1(877) 750-3642 or by email at [vafoiaservice@va.gov](mailto:vafoiaservice@va.gov).

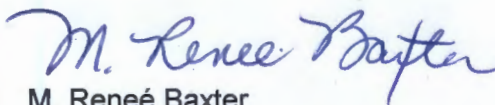
You may appeal the initial determination made in this response to:

**Department of Veterans Affairs  
Office of General Counsel (OGC) (Appeals)  
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W. (024)  
Washington, DC 20420-0001  
Email: [OGCFOIAAppeals@va.gov](mailto:OGCFOIAAppeals@va.gov)**

Please include your FOIA case number in any appeal. Also, include a copy of this letter with your written appeal and clearly state why you disagree with the determinations set forth in this response. You must file your appeal within 90 days from the date of this letter clearly marking both the letter and the envelope "**Freedom of Information Act Appeal.**" Please include a copy of this letter with your appeal, and state why you disagree with this determination.

Additionally, as part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. You may contact OGIS by email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); by toll-free telephone at 1-877-684-6448 (or 202-741-5770); by facsimile at 202-741-5769; or by writing to: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 2510, College Park, MD 20740-6001.

Sincerely,



M. Renee Baxter  
OGC FOIA Officer