

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.,)	
425 Third Street SW, Suite 800)	
Washington, DC 20024,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	Civil Action No.
v.)	
)	
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY,)	
Office of General Counsel)	
Washington, DC 20505,)	
)	
)	
Defendant.)	
)	

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Judicial Watch, Inc. (“Plaintiff”) brings this action against Defendant Central Intelligence Agency (“Defendant”) to compel compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (“FOIA”). As grounds therefor, Plaintiff alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. The court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
2. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e).

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff, Judicial Watch, Inc. is a not-for-profit, educational organization incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia and headquartered at 425 Third Street SW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20024. Plaintiff seeks to promote transparency, integrity, and accountability in government and fidelity to the rule of law. As part of its mission, Plaintiff regularly requests records from federal agencies pursuant to FOIA. Plaintiff analyzes the

agencies' responses and disseminates both its findings and the requested records to the American public to inform them about "what their government is up to."

4. Defendant Central Intelligence Agency ("CIA") is an agency of the U.S. Government and is headquartered in Langley, Virginia. The CIA has possession, custody, and control of records to which Plaintiff seeks access.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

5. On March 14, 2024, Plaintiff submitted a FOIA request to the CIA asking the agency to produce records related to the following:

1. **Shots fired inside the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.**
2. **A person being shot inside the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.**
3. **Requests for CIA support or assistance at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.**
4. **Bomb technician support or assistance to any potential or actual bombs or explosive devices in response to the massive protests in and around the Washington DC area on January 6, 2021.**
5. **Accelerant or explosives K-9s (bomb detection dogs) placed on standby or used in Washington, DC, in response to the massive protests in and around Washington, DC on January 6, 2021.**
6. **Any after action reports concerning the events that took place in Washington, DC on January 6, 2021.**

The time frame for the requested records was identified as "January 6, 2020, to December 31, 2021."

8. By letter dated March 28, 2024, the CIA acknowledged receipt of Plaintiff's request on March 14, 2024, and advised Plaintiff that the request had been assigned reference number F-2024-01475.

9. As of the date of this complaint Defendant has failed to: (i) determine whether to comply with the requests; (ii) notify Plaintiff of any such determination or the reasons therefor; (iii) advise Plaintiff of the right to appeal any adverse determination; or (iv) produce the requested records or otherwise demonstrate that the requested records are exempt from production.

COUNT I
(Violation of FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552)

10. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs 1 through 9 as if fully stated herein.

11. Defendants are in violation of FOIA.

12. Plaintiff is being irreparably harmed by Defendant's violation of FOIA, and Plaintiff will continue to be irreparably harmed unless Defendant is compelled to comply with the law.

13. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law.

14. To trigger FOIA's administrative exhaustion requirement, Defendant was required to make final determinations on Plaintiff's request by April 12, 2024, at the latest. Because Defendant failed to make final determinations on Plaintiff's request within the time limit set by FOIA, Plaintiff is deemed to have exhausted its administrative appeal remedies.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court: (1) order Defendant to conduct a search for any and all records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request and demonstrate that it employed search methods reasonably likely to lead to the discovery of records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request; (2) order Defendant to produce, by a date certain, any and all non-exempt records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request and *Vaughn* indices of any responsive records withheld under claim of exemption; (3) enjoin Defendant from continuing to withhold any and all non-exempt records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request; (4) grant Plaintiff an

award of attorneys' fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred in this action pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E); and (5) grant Plaintiff such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: July 24, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ James F. Peterson

James F. Peterson

D.C. Bar No. 450171

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