

United States of America FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

MAK I I ZUIG

John Cotter American Bridge 21st Century 455 Massachusetts Ave, Suite 280 Washington, DC 20001

> Re: FOIA-2016-00559 Trump FOIA Requests

Dear Mr. Cotter:

This is in response to your request dated March 02, 2016, under the Freedom of Information Act seeking access to:

- 1. Copies of all record requests from June 1, 2015-March 2, 2016 that contain the phrase "Trump," and
- 2. Copies of all responsive records (including response letters) provided for the identified requests.

In accordance with the FOIA and agency policy, we have searched our records, as of March 02, 2016, the date we received your request in our FOIA office.

We have located 8 responsive FOIA requests. Out of these 8 requests, 2 are still pending. You may check the status of requests 2016-00378 and 2016-00426 by visiting <u>http://www.ftc.gov/about-ftc/foia/foia-reading-rooms/track-your-foia-request</u>. This report is updated at the end of each month. Once we have issued a final response, you may submit a new FOIA request.

The responsive records for 2015-01334, 2015-01356, 2015-01409, 2015-01412 and 2015-01490 are MS Excel spreadsheets of consumer complaints. Please note that some of these spreadsheets may be duplicates of previously released spreadsheets. In response to these underlying requests, we asserted two of the nine exemptions to the FOIA's disclosure requirements, as explained below.

We withheld some complaints under FOIA Exemption 3, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3), because they are exempt from disclosure by another statute; specifically, Section 21(f) of the FTC Act provides that the FTC may not disclose any material reflecting a consumer complaint obtained from a foreign source if that foreign source has requested confidential treatment. 15 U.S.C.§ 57b-2(f).

We also denied access to consumers' names and addresses, and any other identifying information found in the complaints. This information is exempt from release under FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), because individuals' right to privacy outweighs the general public's interest in seeing personal identifying information. *See The Lakin Law Firm v. FTC*, 352 F.3d 1122 (7th Cir. 2003).

Additionally, we released 8 pages of responsive records in response to 2016-00377 (due to a typographical error, the response letter stated that we located 9 pages). Portions of these pages contain personal identifying information and we asserted FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) to exempt this information from release.

Based on the fee provisions of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A), and the Commission's Rules of Practice, 16 CFR § 4.8 et seq., as amended, I am also enclosing an invoice for the charges we incurred for this response to your request.

Please make checks payable to U.S. Treasury and send payment to:

Financial Management Office, H-790 Federal Trade Commission 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20580

If you are not satisfied with this response to your request, you may appeal by writing to Freedom of Information Act Appeal, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. 20580, within 30 days of the date of this letter. Please enclose a copy of your original request and a copy of this response. If you believe that we should choose to disclose additional materials beyond what the FOIA requires, please explain why this would be in the public interest.

If you have any questions about the way we handled your request, or about our FOIA regulations or procedures, please contact Katie Baker at 202-326-2869.

Sincerely. Slen

Dione J. Stearns Assistant General Counsel

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