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## ANNUAL FOIA REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2022 U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS (USCCR)

# I. BASIC INFORMATION REGARDING REPORT

1. For information concerning this Report, please contact:

David Ganz

General Counsel and Chief FOIA Officer

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1150

Washington, DC 20425

Phone: (202) 376-7622

E-mail: dganz@usccr.gov

- 2. This report is available on USCCR's website at: https://www.usccr.gov/reports/FOIA.
- 3. Paper copies of the report can be requested from the person/address listed above.

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#### II. MAKING A FOIA REQUEST

1. FOIA Requests are made to the USCCR by mail or email:

**FOIA Officer** 

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1150

Washington, DC 20425

E-mail: foia@usccr.gov

https://www.foia.gov/#agency-search

2. Requests for records may not be granted: if the requested records are not maintained by or in the possession of the USCCR; if the requested records contain pre-decisional information; if release of the records would cause harm to USCCR decision-making processes; if portions of records contain personal and/or proprietary information; if records contain information compiled for law enforcement purposes; or if the requested records contain information specifically prohibited from disclosure by FOIA and/or other statutes.

#### III. ACRONYMS, DEFINITIONS, AND EXEMPTIONS

1. In this Report, the term "USCCR" means the "United States Commission on Civil Rights."

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- 2. Definitions of terms used in this Report:
- a. Administrative Appeal a request to a federal agency asking that it review at a higher administrative level a FOIA determination made by the agency at the initial request level.
- b. Average Number the number obtained by dividing the sum of a group of numbers by the quantity of numbers in the group. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the average number is 8.
- c. Backlog the number of requests or administrative appeals that are pending at an agency at the end of the fiscal year that are beyond the statutory time period for a response.
- d. Component for agencies that process requests on a decentralized basis, a "component" is an entity, also sometimes referred to as an Office, Division, Bureau, Center, or Directorate, within the agency that processes FOIA requests. The FOIA now requires that agencies include in their Annual FOIA Report data for both the agency overall and for each principal component of the agency. The USCCR does not have any components.
- e. Consultation the procedure whereby the agency responding to a FOIA request first forwards a record to another agency for its review because that other agency has an interest in the document. Once the agency in receipt of the consultation finishes its review of the record, it responds back to the agency that forwarded it. That agency, in turn, will then respond to the FOIA requester.
- f. Exemption 3 Statute a federal statute that exempts information from disclosure and which the agency relies on to withhold information under subsection (b) (3) of the FOIA.
- g. FOIA Request a FOIA request is generally a request to a federal agency for access to records concerning another person (i.e., a "third party" request), or concerning an organization, or a particular topic of interest. FOIA requests also include requests made by requesters seeking records concerning themselves (i.e., "first-party" requests) when those requesters are not subject to the Privacy Act, such as non-U.S. citizens. Moreover, because all first-party requesters should be afforded the benefit of both the access provisions of the FOIA as well as those of the Privacy Act, FOIA requests also include any first-party requests where an agency determines that it must search beyond its Privacy Act "systems of records" or where a Privacy Act exemption applies, and the agency looks to FOIA to afford the greatest possible access. All requests which require the agency to utilize the FOIA in responding to the requester are included in this Report. Additionally, a FOIA request includes records referred to the agency for processing and direct response to the

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requester. It does not, however, include records for which the agency has received a consultation from another agency. (Consultations are reported separately in this Report.)

- h. Full Grant an agency decision to disclose all records in full in response to a FOIA request.
- i. Full Denial an agency decision not to release any records in response to a FOIA request because the records are exempt in their entireties under one or more of the FOIA exemptions, or because of a procedural reason, such as when no records could be located.
- j. Median Number the middle, not average, number. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the median number is 7.
- k. Multi-Track Processing a system in which simple requests requiring relatively minimal review are placed in one processing track and more voluminous and complex requests are placed in one or more other tracks. Requests granted expedited processing are placed in yet another track. Requests in each track are processed on a first in/first out basis.
- i. Expedited Processing an agency will process a FOIA request on an expedited basis when a requester satisfies the requirements for expedited processing as set forth in the statute and in agency regulations.
- ii. Simple Request a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in its fastest (non-expedited) track based on the low volume and/or simplicity of the records requested.
- iii. Complex Request a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in a slower track based on the high volume and/or complexity of the records requested.
- 1. Partial Grant/Partial Denial in response to a FOIA request, an agency decision to disclose portions of the records and to withhold other portions that are exempt under the FOIA, or to otherwise deny a portion of the request for a procedural reason.
- m. Pending Request or Pending Administrative Appeal a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has not taken final action in all respects.
- n. Perfected Request a request for records which reasonably describes such records and is made in accordance with published rules stating the time, place, fees (if any) and procedures to be followed.
- o. Processed Request or Processed Administrative Appeal a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has taken final action in all respects.

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- p. Range in Number of Days the lowest and highest number of days to process requests or administrative appeals.
- q. Time Limits the time period in the statute for an agency to respond to a FOIA request (ordinarily twenty working days from receipt of a perfected FOIA request).
- 3. There are nine FOIA exemptions:
- a. Exemption 1: classified national defense and foreign relations information.
- b. Exemption 2: internal agency personnel rules and practices.
- c. Exemption 3: information that is prohibited from disclosure by another federal law.
- d. Exemption 4: trade secrets and other confidential business information.
- e. Exemption 5: inter-agency or intra-agency communications that are protected by legal privileges.
- f. Exemption 6: information involving matters of personal privacy.
- g. Exemption 7: records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, to the extent that the production of those records (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual.
- h. Exemption 8: information relating to the supervision of financial institutions.
- i. Exemption 9: geological information on wells.

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### **III. Agency Component Abbreviations**

Component Abbreviation	Component Name
USCCR	Commission on Civil Rights

# IV. Exemption 3 Statutes

Statute	Type of Information Withheld	Case Citation	Agency / Component	Number of Times Relied upon by Agency / Component	Total Number of Times Relied upon by Agency Overall
N/A	N/A	N/A	USCCR	0	0

# V.A. FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED AND PENDING FOIA REQUESTS

Agency / Component	Number of Requests Pending as of	Number of Requests	Number of Requests	Number of Requests Pending as of
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	Start of Fiscal Year	Received in Fiscal Year	Processed in Fiscal Year	End of Fiscal Year
USCCR	0	60	60	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	60	60	0

## V.B.(1). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- ALL PROCESSED REQUESTS

	Number of Number of				Number of Full Denials Based on Reasons Other than Exemptions									
Agency / of Full	Number of Full Grants	of Full Partial Grants /	/ Based on Exemptions	No Records	All Records Referred to Another Component or Agency	Request Withdrawn	Fee- Related Reason	Records not Reasonably Described	Improper FOIA Request for Other Reason	Not Agency Record	Duplicate Request	Other *Explain in Chart Below	TOTAL	
USCCR	17	1	0	35	0	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	60	
AGENCY OVERALL	17	1	0	35	0	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	60	

V.B.(2). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- "OTHER" REASONS FOR "FULL DENIALS BASED ON REASONS OTHER THAN EXEMPTIONS"

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Agency / Component	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denials from Chart B(1)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
USCCR	N/A	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL			0

# V.B.(3). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- NUMBER OF TIMES EXEMPTIONS APPLIED

Agency / Component	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6	Ex. 7(A)	Ex. 7(B)	Ex. 7(C)	Ex. 7(D)	Ex. 7(E)	Ex. 7(F)	Ex. 8	Ex. 9
USCCR	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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# VI.A. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF INITIAL DETERMINATIONS OF FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component	Number of Appeals Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Received in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Processed in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Pending as of End of Fiscal Year
USCCR	0	1	1	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	1	1	0

#### VI.B. DISPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS -- ALL PROCESSED APPEALS

Agency / Component	Number Affirmed on Appeal	Number Partially Affirmed & Partially Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number Completely Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number of Appeals Closed for Other Reasons	TOTAL
USCCR	1	0	0	0	1



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AGENCY OVERALL	1	0	0	0	1

### VI.C.(1). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- NUMBER OF TIMES EXEMPTIONS APPLIED

Agency / Component	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6	Ex. 7(A)	Ex. 7(B)	Ex. 7(C)	Ex. 7(D)	Ex. 7(E)	Ex. 7(F)	Ex. 8	Ex. 9
USCCR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

VI.C.(2). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- REASONS OTHER THAN EXEMPTIONS

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Agency / Component	No Records	Records Referred at Initial Request Level	Request Withdrawn	Fee- Related Reason	Records not Reasonably Described	Improper Request for Other Reasons	Not Agency Record	Duplicate Request or Appeal	Request in Litigation	Appeal Based Solely on Denial of Request for Expedited Processing	Other *Explain in chart below
USCCR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

# VI.C.(3). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- "OTHER" REASONS

Agency / Component	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denial on Appeal from Chart C(2)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
USCCR	N/A	0	0



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AGENCY		0
OVERALL		U

### VI.C.(4). RESPONSE TIME FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
USCCR	5	5	5	5
AGENCY OVERALL	5	5	5	5

# VI.C.(5). TEN OLDEST PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component	10th Oldest Appeal	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Appeal
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	Date of Appeal	N/A									
USCCR	Number of Days Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY	Date of Appeal	N/A									
OVERALL	Number of Days Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

#### VII.A. FOIA REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME FOR ALL PROCESSED PERFECTED REQUESTS

		SIM	IPLE			COM	PLEX		E.	XPEDITED I	PROCESSIN	G
Agency / Component	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
USCCR	3	7	0	53	30	29	8	59	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	3	7	0	53	30	29	8	59	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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#### VII.B. PROCESSED REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME FOR PERFECTED REQUESTS IN WHICH INFORMATION WAS GRANTED

		SIM	IPLE			COM	PLEX		E)	XPEDITED I	PROCESSIN	G
Agency / Component	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
USCCR	7	14	1	53	30	29	8	59	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	7	14	1	53	30	29	8	59	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### VII.C. PROCESSED SIMPLE REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS

Agency / Component	<1- 20 Days	21- 40 Days	41- 60 Days	61- 80 Days	81- 100 Days	101- 120 Days	121- 140 Days	141- 160 Days	161- 180 Days	181- 200 Days	201- 300 Days	301- 400 Days	401+ Days	TOTAL
USCCR	39	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44

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AGENCY OVERALL	39	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
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#### VII.C. PROCESSED COMPLEX REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS

Agency / Component	<1- 20 Days	21- 40 Days	41- 60 Days	61- 80 Days	81- 100 Days	101- 120 Days	121- 140 Days	141- 160 Days	161- 180 Days	181- 200 Days	201- 300 Days	301- 400 Days	401+ Days	TOTAL
USCCR	5	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
AGENCY OVERALL	5	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9

#### VII.C. PROCESSED REQUESTS GRANTED EXPEDITED PROCESSING -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS

Agency /	<1- 20	21- 40	41- 60	61- 80	81- 100	101- 120	121- 140	141- 160	161- 180	181- 200	201- 300	301- 400	401+ Davs	TOTAL
component	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	

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USCCR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

#### VII.D. PENDING REQUESTS -- ALL PENDING PERFECTED REQUESTS

,	SIMPLE			COMPLEX			EXPEDITED PROCESSING		
Agency / Component	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days
USCCR	0	N/A	N/A	0	7	7	0	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	0	N/A	N/A	0	7	7	0	N/A	N/A

VII.E. PENDING REQUESTS -- TEN OLDEST PENDING PERFECTED REQUESTS

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Agency / Component		10th Oldest Request	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Request
	Date of Receipt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2022- 09-30
USCCR	Number of Days Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
AGENCY OVERALL	Date of Receipt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2022- 09-30
	Number of Days Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

## VIII.A. REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING

Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate	Number Adjudicated Within Ten Calendar Days
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USCCR	0	0	N/A	N/A	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	N/A	N/A	0

# VIII.B. Requests for Fee Waiver

Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate
USCCR	0	0	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	N/A	N/A

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#### IX. FOIA Personnel and Costs

		PERSONNEL		COSTS			
Agency / Component	Number of "Full-Time FOIA Employees"	Number of "Equivalent Full-Time FOIA Employees"	Total Number of "Full-Time FOIA Staff"	Processing Costs	Litigation- Related Costs	Total Costs	
USCCR	1	0.00	1.00	50643.00	0.00	50643.00	
AGENCY OVERALL	1	0.00	1.00	50643.00	0.00	50643.00	

# X. Fees Collected for Processing Requests

Agency / Component	Total Amount of Fees Collected	Percentage of Total Costs
USCCR	0.00	

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AGENCY		
OVERALL	0.00	

# XI.A. Number of Times Subsection (C) Used

Agency / Component	Number of Times Subsection Used
USCCR	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0

# XI.B. Number of Subsection (A)(2) Postings

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Agency / Component	Number of Records Posted by the FOIA Office	Number of Records Posted by Program Offices
USCCR	1	1
AGENCY OVERALL	1	1

# XII.A. Backlogs of FOIA Requests and Administrative Appeals

Agency / Component	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of Fiscal Year	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of Fiscal Year	
USCCR	0	0	
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	

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#### XII.B. CONSULTATIONS ON FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING CONSULTATIONS

Agency / Component	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that were Pending at the Agency as of Start of the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations <u>Received</u> from Other Agencies During the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that were Processed by the Agency During the Fiscal	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that were Pending at the Agency as of End of the Fiscal Year
USCCR	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0

#### XII.C. CONSULTATIONS ON FOIA REQUESTS -- TEN OLDEST CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED FROM OTHER AGENCIES AND PENDING AT THE AGENCY

Agency / Component		10th Oldest Consultation	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Consultation
USCCR	Date	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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	Number of Days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY	Date	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OVERALL	Number of Days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

# XII.D.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- REQUESTS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED

	NUMBER OF REC	QUESTS <u>RECEIVED</u>	NUMBER OF REQUESTS PROCESSED		
Agency / Component	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	
USCCR	45	60	45	60	
AGENCY OVERALL	45	60	45	60	

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#### XII.D.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- BACKLOGGED REQUESTS

Agency / Component	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of the Fiscal Year from Previous Annual Report	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of the Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
USCCR	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0

# XII.E.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- APPEALS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED

Agency /	NUMBER OF API	PEALS <u>RECEIVED</u>	NUMBER OF APPEALS <u>PROCESSED</u>		
Component	Number	Number	Number	Number	
Component	Received During	Received During	Processed	Processed	
	Fiscal Year from	Fiscal Year from	During Fiscal	During Fiscal	

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	Last Year's Annual Report	Current Annual Report	Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Year from Current Annual Report
USCCR	1	1	1	1
AGENCY OVERALL	1	1	1	1

# XII.E.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- BACKLOGGED APPEALS

Agency / Component	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of the Fiscal Year from Previous Annual Report	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of the Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
USCCR	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0



# UNITED STATES USCCR ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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