



Office of Inspector General
Legal Services Corporation

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February 7, 2014

Mr. Michael Ravnitzky
1905 August Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20902

Re: OIG Freedom of Information Act Request 14-05

Dear Mr. Ravnitzky:

On February 4, 2014, my office received your letter appealing the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) original decision to withhold some of the information you requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). I have reviewed the file reflecting the OIG's original decision and inquired into the OIG's actions in response to your FOIA request. After carefully considering your appeal, I have decided to affirm the OIG's original action on your request.

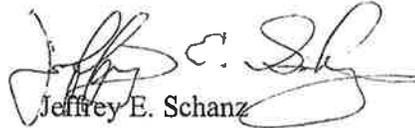
Specifically, you requested "emails in the Inspector General's FOIA Office ... that contain the word Ravnitzky." In response, the OIG produced 132 pages in full and 16 pages containing some redactions. The OIG withheld the redacted information pursuant to the deliberative process privilege incorporated into Exemption 5 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), which protects "inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency."

I have confirmed that the pages in question were interagency communications generated in a deliberative context. The redacted material is not factual in nature. Rather, it reflects legal opinion and analysis prompted by a query seeking advice about the disposition of another of your FOIA requests. As such it falls squarely within the deliberative process privilege and, was appropriately withheld pursuant to Exemption 5. The query that prompted this legal analysis was necessarily a part of the deliberative process and also appropriately withheld. Nor, in my view, are the redacted portions of the pages in question suitable for discretionary release. Rest assured, the information redacted does

not discuss you personally or have the sort of pejorative impact about which you appear to be concerned. It discusses issues raised by the query.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on this appeal, you may seek judicial review in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey E. Schanz". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

Jeffrey E. Schanz
Inspector General