IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ACCURACY IN MEDIA, INC., et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Civil Action No. 14-1589 (EGS/DAR)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, et al.,

Defendants.

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Pursuant to the Court's November 28, 2022 Order, Plaintiffs Accuracy in Media, Inc., et. al., and Defendants Department of Defense, et al., hereby submit this Joint Status Report in this Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") case.

I. Ongoing Disputes

On November 28, 2022, the Court adopted Magistrate Judge Robinson's Report and Recommendation, granted in part and denied in part Defendants' motion for summary judgment, and denied Plaintiffs' motion to propound an interrogatory to the Department of Defense. ECF No. 93 (order); *see also* ECF No. 92 (opinion). Specifically, the Court granted summary judgment in favor of Defendants on all issues except as to the status of certain FD-302s. *See* ECF No. 92. With respect to the FD-302s, Defendants had initially issued a *Glomar* response, but later withdrew that *Glomar* response and informed the Court that Defendants would search for and process the documents. *See id.* at 27-28. In its Order, the Court required "that the parties shall submit, by no later than January 20, 2023, a Joint Status Report explaining whether any dispute remains regarding the FD-302s." ECF No. 93.

Defendants report that they processed the relevant documents and determined that they should be withheld in full. Counsel for Defendants conferred with counsel for Plaintiffs, who indicated that Plaintiffs would challenge Defendants' withholdings of the FD-302s. Defendants are currently in the process of determining the amount of time necessary to compile the declarations that Defendants expect to file in support of their anticipated motion for summary judgment relating to this final category of documents.

II. **Next Steps**

The parties intend to meet and confer about a briefing schedule, and respectfully propose that they file a joint status report no later than February 16, 2023, in which the parties will set out their proposed briefing schedule.

DATED: January 20, 2023 Respectfully submitted,

> BRIAN D. BOYNTON Principal Deputy Acting Assistant Attorney General

ELIZABETH J. SHAPIRO Deputy Director Federal Programs Branch

/s/ Joshua C. Abbuhl

JOSHUA C. ABBUHL (D.C. Bar No. 1044782) Trial Attorney U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch 1100 L Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005 Telephone: (202) 616-8366

Facsimile: (202) 616-8470 Joshua. Abbuhl@usdoj.gov Counsel for Defendants

/s/ John H. Clarke

John H. Clarke

D.C. Bar No. 388599 1629 K Street, N.W. Suite 300 Washington, DC 20006 (202) 344-0776 john@johnclarkelaw.com Attorney for Plaintiffs