

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

EUGENE B. McDANIEL, *et al.*,)
)
 Plaintiffs,)
)
 v.)
) Civil Action No. 20-1735 (RCL)
 NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND)
 RECORDS ADMINISTRATION,)
)
 Defendant.)
 _____)

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Plaintiffs and Defendant National Archives and Records Administration (“NARA”), hereby provide the Court with the following Status Report pursuant to the Court’s Minute Order dated January 7, 2026. The parties have conferred as directed by the Court.

Plaintiffs filed an amended complaint on September 1, 2021, adding a second FOIA request submitted to NARA on May 21, 2021 and adding two additional FOIA requesters as Plaintiffs. Defendant answered the amended complaint on September 15, 2021.

Part of the records responsive to Plaintiffs’ first request involve records containing national security or other sensitive information (requests 28-48) which required consultation with the equity holding agencies. NARA completed processing all of the 16 documents that were sent out for consultation and made these records available to the plaintiff, with portions withheld under applicable FOIA exemptions.

NARA completed its searches in response to the Plaintiffs’ second request. Two portions of the second request dealt with archival records. Plaintiffs have received final responses with respect to those portions of the request.

The remaining portions of the second request sought operational records. As reported in the joint status report dated July 30, 2025 (ECF No. 57), this was the final task to be completed by NARA. NARA completed processing this portion of the request and provided final responses

to the Plaintiffs prior to July 30, 2025. Given the voluminous number of pages produced by NARA, Plaintiff has been in the process of reviewing the voluminous records since then, as set forth in the last two joint status reports (ECF Nos. 58 and 59).

Plaintiffs have indicated that they will not be challenging redactions but have questions about the search. On January 27, 2026, Plaintiffs requested that NARA perform an additional search for records sought in the April 20, 2020 FOIA request, and request numbers 1-3 in the May 20, 2021 FOIA request. This is the first time NARA became aware of this request, and Plaintiffs have indicated this request can be narrowed. Nonetheless, supplemental searches would be a lengthy process. The parties intend to further discuss this most recent request.

Given the foregoing, it would be difficult for the parties to set forth a summary judgment briefing schedule as directed by the Court in its January 7, 2026 Minute Order, which would facilitate a final disposition of this case no later than March 31, 2026. The parties therefore respectfully request that they file a joint status report by March 2, 2026 to update the Court on the status and to discuss a dispositive motion briefing schedule at that time.

Dated: January 28, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

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