UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT, *Plaintiff*, v. U.S. POSTAL SERVICE *Defendant.*	Case No. 26-cv-3223 (CKK)

RETRIEVED FROM DEMOCRACYDOCKET.COM

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Defendant, U.S. Postal Service ("Defendant"), and Plaintiff, American Oversight, by and through undersigned counsel, respectfully submit this Joint Status Report in this case arising out of the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Court's Minute Order of October 20, 2026, required that the parties file a Joint Status Report no later than November 20, 2026, addressing the status of the Plaintiff's FOIA request, the anticipated number of documents responsive to the Plaintiff's FOIA request, the anticipated date(s) for release of the documents requested by Plaintiff, whether a motion for an *Open America* stay is likely in this case, whether a Vaughn index will be required in this case, and any other matters necessary to bring to the Court's attention.

Accordingly, the parties report that as for the 2026-FPRO-03736 (American Oversight tracking number USPS-26-1738) request, on October 20, 2026, Defendant issued a final response letter to FOIA request 2026-FPRO-03736, which reflected that Defendant located no records responsive to this request.

As for the 2026-FPRO-03737 (American Oversight tracking number USPS-26-1739) request, on November 19, 2026, Defendant issued a determination denying Plaintiff's request for expedited processing of FOIA request 2026-FPRO-03737. Defendant has completed a search for responsive records for FOIA request 2026-FPRO-03737, which yielded approximately 214 pages of responsive records. Defendant is reviewing the responsive records to identify any material exempt from disclosure under FOIA. Because the request seeks records from custodians in multiple offices, this review requires review by or consultation with each custodian's office. Defendant anticipates producing the responsive, non-exempt records by December 11, 2026. Defendant is also determining whether a supplemental search is necessary to satisfy its obligations to conduct a reasonable search for responsive records.

As for the 2026-FPRO-03739 (American Oversight tracking number USPS-26-1740) request, on November 19, 2026, Defendant issued a determination denying Plaintiff's request for expedited processing of FOIA request 2026-FPRO-03739. Defendant has completed a search for responsive records for FOIA request 2026-FPRO-03739, which identified approximately 420 potentially responsive emails. The Postal Service is in the process of reviewing these emails for responsiveness. As a result, Defendant does not yet have a page count of the total number of pages of responsive records, which Defendant must review to identify any exempt material. As a result, Defendant does not yet have an anticipated date of release for these records, but will inform Plaintiff and the Court when it identifies such a date.

Finally, as for the 2026-FPRO-01601 (American Oversight tracking number USPS-26-0623) request, Defendant has not yet completed a search for responsive records for this request. To identify potentially responsive records, Defendant plans to conduct an email search, which is carried out by its Information Catalog Program. Because Defendant has not yet completed its

RETRIEVED FROM DEMOCRACYDOCKET.COM

search for responsive records, it does not yet have an anticipated date of release for any responsive records. Defendant will inform Plaintiff and the Court once the search is complete and when Defendant identifies an anticipated date of release for any responsive records.

Defendant does not anticipate requesting an *Open America* stay, and the parties agree that a Vaughn index will only be required to the extent that Plaintiff intends to challenge any withholdings pursuant to a FOIA exemption.

Accordingly, the parties respectfully suggest that their next Joint Status Report be due January 26, 2027, at which time they will update the Court on the status of this case.

RETRIEVED FROM DEMOCRACYDOCKET.COM

Dated: November 20, 2026
Washington, DC

Respectfully submitted,

JEANINE FERRIS PIRRO
United States Attorney

/s/ Nick Place
Nick Place
D.C. Bar No. LA00021
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 869-5246
nick.place@americanoversight.org
Counsel for Plaintiff

By: */s/ Fithawi Berhane*

FITHAWI BERHANE
Assistant United States Attorney
601 D Street NW
Washington, DC 20530
(202) 252-6653
Fithawi.Berhane@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for the United States of America