



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

SEP 8 2011

Mara Verheyden-Hilliard
Partnership for Civil Justice Fund
617 Florida Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Verheyden-Hilliard:

RE: Case Control No. 201007164

This is in response to your letter of July 8, in which you appealed our decision to deny Mr. Becker's request for expedited processing of his request for contracts in the possession of the Department of State regarding all grants, payments, purchase orders and/or obligations of funds.

After carefully considering the additional information provided in your letter and reviewing your original request again, I must regretfully advise you that I agree with our decision to deny expedited processing of your request. Our published regulations regarding expedition, 22 C.F.R. § 171.12(b), require a specific showing of a compelling need. Expedited processing is granted in very limited situations, including the basis on which you rely.

Your letter indicates that expedited processing was sought due to an urgency to "inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity." You also indicated that there is an imminent threat to the life and physical safety of individuals and a matter of substantial humanitarian reasons to justify expeditious processing. Based on the documentation submitted, you do not demonstrate sufficient justification to warrant expeditious processing.

Please be assured, however, that the Department will continue to process this request in queue, and that as soon as any material is available for release it will be forwarded to you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the telephone number or address below. Please include the case number of your request in your communications with us.

Sincerely,



Rosemary Reid
Division Chief
Requester Liaison Division