IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

KNIGHT FIRST AMENDMENT INSTITUTE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, *et al.*	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	Civil Action No. 18-1129 (EGS)
v.	)	
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, *et al.*	)	
Defendants.	)	

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Plaintiffs Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, American Civil Liberties Union, and American Civil Liberties Union Foundation (collectively, "Plaintiffs"), and Defendants respectfully submit this Joint Status Report ("JSR"), pursuant to the Court's Order of July 29, 2021. *See* Minute Order (July 29, 2021).

1. This lawsuit involves three separate FOIA requests, which together seek records from twenty (20) separate Executive Branch agencies related to their respective pre-publication review processes—the policies and procedures governing the review of written materials drafted or prepared by current or former federal government employees, which discuss or reference their federal government service, prior to public release. *See* Compl. ¶¶ 1, 14-123. Several prior JSRs set forth the nature and scope of the FOIA requests in detail. *See* Dkt. Nos. 30, 31, 33, 41, 43, 44, 47.

2. In the parties' last JSR, filed on July 29, 2021, Defendants reported that all defendant agencies had completed their productions. Dkt. No. 52 ¶ 2. Undersigned defense counsel has since learned that while all the agencies have completed production of their own documents, there remain some outstanding referrals (i.e., documents originating with other

agencies and referred to them for processing and direct response to Plaintiffs). On October 21, 2021, the Defense Intelligence Agency made a small supplemental production to Plaintiffs of documents that had been referred to it. Defendants are working on completing any outstanding referrals as expeditiously as possible and encouraging non-defendant agencies to do the same.

3. Meanwhile, the parties are actively contintuing their conferral regarding Defendants' productions. Those discussions, which the parties are undertaking with the shared goal of narrowing or resolving any issues that may otherwise require judicial resolution, have been productive. Due to the number of agency Defendants, the volume of Defendants' collective productions, and the number of detailed questions posed by Plaintiffs, additional time is needed to complete the conferral process.

4. Accordingly, the parties propose that they file a further Joint Status Report on or before January 28, 2022, that will (1) update the Court on the status of referrals, (2) inform the Court of the parties' progress on their conferral efforts, and (3) propose a briefing schedule, if necessary.

Dated: October 29, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

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