



NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and* RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
8601 ADELPHI ROAD COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740-6001
www.archives.gov

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

July 10, 2018

Mr. Raymond Marbury
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Department of Homeland Security
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Room 3.2C
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Mr. Marbury:

I am contacting you about an alleged unauthorized disposition of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) records based on a news article published in *The New York Times*, "Trump Administration in Chaotic Scramble to Reunify Migrant Families" dated July 5, 2018 (see attached). The article alleges that according to two unnamed officials at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs agents deleted the initial records in which parents and children were listed together as a family with a "family identification number." This allegation has also been detailed in a letter that the Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero, (see attached) received on July 6, 2018, from the Citizens for the Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW). This letter was also copied and sent to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) at DHS and the OIG at the Department of Health and Human Service (HHS).

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.16(b), NARA is requesting that CBP provide us with a response within 30 calendar days indicating the specific actions CBP will take to address these allegations. If CBP determines that an unauthorized disposition has occurred, then CBP must submit a report to NARA as described in 36 CFR 1230.14, which must include whether specific records outlined in the allegation can be recovered, recreated, or duplicated from other sources and the steps CBP will take in order to mitigate future unauthorized alterations or deletions of CBP records.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Karyn Skevakis, Senior Records Analyst, at 301-837-3069 or by email at karyn.skevakis@nara.gov.

Sincerely,



LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government

Enclosures

- 1. NYT Article 7-6-2018 Trump Administration in Chaotic Scramble to Reunify Migrant Families**
- 2. 2018-7-6-NARA-DHS-HHS-records-destruction.pdf**

cc:

Dr. John Zangardi
Chief Information Officer
DHS Senior Agency Official for Records Management
John.zangardi@hq.dhs.gov

Tammy Hudson
DHS Agency Records Officer
tammy.hudson@hq.dhs.gov

Debbie Kramer
HHS Agency Records Officer
Debbie.Kramer@hhs.gov



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

December 14, 2020

Ms. Dawn Watts
Chief Records Officer
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Department of Homeland Security
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Room 3.2C
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Ms. Watts:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has received your letter dated December 2, 2020 in response to NARA's request for information regarding the unauthorized disposition allegation of the deletion of family identification numbers as initially reported in the *New York Times* on July 5, 2018. The December 2, 2020 letter documents that there are no claims in the open litigation that are related to record-keeping inquiries.

This latest information combined with the documentation that we received October 2, 2018, that included information pertaining to the structure of the database and showed that the system was able to ascertain that no records were deleted, adequately documents that this allegation is unfounded. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact me at laurence.brewer@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government

cc:

Dr. John Zangardi

Chief Information Officer

DHS Senior Agency Official for Records Management

john.zangardi@hq.dhs.gov

Deborah Draxler

Acting DHS Agency Records Officer

deborah.draxler@hq.dhs.gov